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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
With Saipan casinos back on the table, how should the issue be decided: By voters acting on a legislative initiative or by lawmakers acting on a bill?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Bullying Victim
President Obama says his large ears and funny name once made him a target of bullying.

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Repatriated OFWs
Two flights arrive in the Philippines carrying a total of 731 Filipinos repatriated from Libya.

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Kicked Out
American Idol viewers didn't tell Ashthon Jones they loved her.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

60 dead, 56 missing in Japan quake, tsunami

AP

Flames rise from houses and debris half submerged in tsunami in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture (state) after Japan was struck by a strong earthquake off its northeastern coast Friday, March 11, 2011.

By MALCOLM FOSTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—A powerful tsunami spawned by the largest earthquake in Japan's recorded history slammed the eastern coast Friday, sweeping away boats, cars, homes and people as widespread fires burned out of control. Tsunami warnings blanketed the entire Pacific, as far away as South America, Canada, Alaska and the entire U.S. West Coast.

Authorities said at least 60 people were killed and 56 are missing. The magnitude 8.9 offshore quake was followed by at least 19 aftershocks, most of them of more than magnitude 6.0. Dozens of cities and villages along a 1,300-mile (2,100-kilometer) stretch of coastline were shaken by violent tremors that reached as far away as Tokyo, hundreds of miles (kilometers) from the epicenter.

A utility company in northeastern Japan reported a fire in a turbine building of nuclear power plant.

"The earthquake has caused major damage in broad areas in

See QUAKE on Page 4

Tsunami warning triggers evacuation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thousands of residents in low-lying areas on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota evacuated to higher ground after acting governor Eloy S. Inos declared a tsunami warning for the CNMI yesterday afternoon in the wake of an 8.9 magnitude earthquake in Japan.

Although the estimated arrival time of the tsunami was 7:01pm, the tsunami warning for the Commonwealth was not lifted until 10:50pm.

At 9:32pm last night, the Emergency Management Office confirmed reports of wave activity throughout the region and advised all residents to remain at higher grounds until an "all clear" order is issued.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center also said that sea level readings confirm that a tsunami has been generated that could cause widespread damage.

See TSUNAMI on Page 4

Images of destruction convince many to evacuate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Business establishments in low-lying areas closed shop, motorists flocked to gasoline stations, and hundreds of children and adults fled to higher ground after acting governor Eloy S. Inos issued a tsunami warning at 4:30pm yesterday because of an 8.9-magnitude quake that hit Honshu, Japan.

The hundreds of vehicles driving to higher ground clogged roads leading to Capital Hill and San Vicente on Saipan alone.

At 10pm last night, the Emergency Management Office said the tsunami warning would remain in effect until 11pm.

A tsunami didn't strike Saipan at 7:01pm as earlier estimated, causing many people to start leaving elevated grounds from 8pm onwards.

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Fitial will not undergo surgery; will return next week. PAGE 2
Rota, Tinian patients' transport costs back to DPH, for now. PAGE 3

Local

Fitial will not undergo surgery; will return next week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will not be undergoing another spinal surgery at least for the next three months, after spending a week of treatment and assessment at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, California.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial are expected to return to the CNMI next week.

"At the recommendation of his physician, the governor's scheduled spinal procedure was called off for at least the next three months," Demapan said in a statement.

He said Dr. Jeffrey Wang, executive director of the UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center, assessed Fitial's spine and opted to place the governor on medication and physical therapy for up to 90 days.

The press secretary said following the 90-day period, another MRI will be ordered to determine whether or not spinal surgery will still be necessary.

Fitial thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

"My wife and I wish to extend our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, and most especially, for the intentions that were offered at the daily masses for a successful medical treatment. As we prepare to make our way back home, we wish to say thank you, *si yu'os ma'ase'* and *olomwaay*," he said in a statement.

The governor is hopeful that the prescribed medication and physical therapy will be able to decompress his inflamed and tight lumbar Nos. 4 and 5.

Due to the inflammation, the governor was experiencing difficulty and challenges in his mobility.

Fitial has been on medical leave since leaving Washington, D.C. on March 1 for official meetings with federal officials and attendance at the National Governors Association winter meeting.

He and the first lady arrived in Los Angeles on March 2.

In 2006, Fitial was away on medical leave for almost three months, from October to December, because of surgeries.

He had neck surgery on Oct. 31, 2006 (Saipan time) at the UCLA Medical Center to correct his spinal stenosis, a narrowing of the spinal canal that places pressure on the spinal cord.

Two months later, on Dec. 5, 2006, he had another surgery to address a similar condition affecting his lower back.

Horizon Lines to hike fuel surcharge anew

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With only a little over a week since they last increased rates, Horizon Lines has announced another hike in fuel surcharge fees for shipments between Micronesia and the continental U.S. effective April 3.

The fuel adjustment factor will increase by 8.5 percentage points from 28 to 36.5 percent.

"Horizon Lines will continue to closely monitor fuel costs and will adjust the fuel surcharge as trends warrant," said Horizon Lines of Guam, LLC in its service bulletin posted on March 5.

Horizon's move comes after Matson Navigation Co. announced an 8.5 fuel surcharge hike, increasing its rate from 28 to 36.5 effective March 27.

David Hoppes, Matson senior vice president for ocean services, attributed the hike to the dramatic increase in fuel prices due to the current unrest in the Middle East.

Last Feb. 27, both Horizon Lines and Matson Navigation Company increased their fuel surcharge rate from 23.25 to 28 percent or by 4.75 percentage points for shipping freight between the U.S. mainland and Guam/CNMI.

Lawmaker wants to reduce littering penalty from $200 to $25

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said yesterday he will pre-file as early as next week a bill amending the anti-littering law to reduce the penalty from $200 to $25 on first offense for individuals.

He will also include in his bill penalties for businesses, which will start at $200 on first offense and up to $5,000.

"People have been saying that the penalty of $200 for people caught littering is too high, that's why enforcers do not issue citation. But if we amend the law to lower the penalty, then our enforcement officers won't hesitate to issue citation for violators," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since the signing of Public Law 6-37 or the Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989, there have only been a few certified litter control officers that could focus on enforcing the law.

The anti-littering law provides for a penalty from $200 to $500 for littering. A violator may also be ordered to pick up trash from a public place under government supervision. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Ex-convict allegedly threatens cop

An ex-convict allegedly caused a disturbance at his wife's residence in Garapan and threatened to hunt down and kill a police officer early Tuesday morning.

Roland Augustin, 56, was arrested for resisting arrest, and disturbing the peace. Bail was initially set at $10,000 cash but this was lowered to $2,000 cash during Thursday's bail hearing. Preliminary hearing is on March 17 at 9am.

Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent Augustin.

Detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that police officers responded to Garapan on Tuesday at 3:15am after receiving a report of a disturbance.

The suspect's daughter told police that Augustin had arrived at the house and told her to wake up her mother. When she refused to do so, Augustin allegedly got angry and left but then returned after an hour, yelling and demanding that he speak with his wife.

The wife was awakened by the noise and told Augustin to leave. He allegedly threatened to break down the door and that's when the wife called 911.

Bauleong said the officers talked to Augustin and they claimed that the suspect's speech was slurred as he argued with them.

When police officer Norbert O. Mettao tried to put handcuffs on Augustin, the suspect allegedly resisted by pulling his hand away. Two other officers assisted Mettao in subduing Augustin.

The suspect then allegedly threatened to hunt down Mettao and kill him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

9 CNMI Employers will receive "service member choice" awards at the

Second Annual Employer Awards Banquet

ESGR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE Guam-CNMI Committee

Saturday, March 12th • Fiesta Resort Saipan

2010 Employer Awards Banquet:

PRO PATRIA AWARDEE
NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross

ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD RECIPIENTS:
Tpeten Enterprises, Northern Marianas College and the Division of Environmental Quality

SEVEN SEALS AWARDEE:
The family of USAR member SSG Noel Chargualaf accepted for him

COLOR GUARD:
Southern High School Junior ROTC Cadets posted the colors

SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYER AWARD RECIPIENTS:
CNMI Public School System, the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Hollywood Theatres Saipan

SPECIAL GUESTS included Judge Edward Manibusan, MG Stephen Tom, Lt Gov Eloy Inos, MG Benny Paulino, COL Ono and Judge David Wiseman

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency that promotes cooperation and understanding between Service Members and Employers by advocating relevants initiatives, increasing awareness and education of the Federal Law, USERRA; mediating workplace disputes and recognizing supportive Employers for their tremendous support of our National Guard and Reserve members. For more information, call 671-735-0456 or 671-483-0324.

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PROMOTIONS SPECIALTIES

Rota, Tinian patients' transport costs back to DPH, for now

» After lawmakers, mayor meet with acting governor, health secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a request from lawmakers and other officials, the Department of Public Health agreed to temporarily suspend until at least Sept. 30 its rule transferring the responsibility of paying for the inter-island transportation costs of Rota and Tinian patients to their respective mayors' offices.

The rule had gone into effect on Feb. 1, and was suspended on Wednesday after a meeting among officials that included acting governor Eloy S. Inos.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, said the suspension of DPH's rule until at least Sept. 30 or before the start of fiscal year 2012 on Oct. 1 will give the mayors of Rota and Tinian time to appropriate funds for this additional expense under the 2012 budget.

"We will make sure to appropriate funds for it. I'm glad that we're able to resolve the issue and not continue to burden the mayors' offices and the patients from Rota and Tinian," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said Rota and Tinian patients will be the ones to suffer if and when they can't be transported to Saipan for medical treatment because of lack of funding from the mayors' offices.

Rota and Tinian municipalities currently do not have funds set aside to take on the added responsibility that DPH transferred to their jurisdiction effective last month. DPH also has insufficient budget to continue funding these costs.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, when asked for comment yesterday, said DPH has been spending almost $300,000a year in recent years on the transportation costs of medical referral patients from Rota and Tinian going to Saipan.

"Yes, we agreed to suspend the implementation of the inter island travel costs until the new fiscal year starts in October of 2011. This is to give each of the mayoral district time to work with the legislative leaders to develop a budget for this program," he said.

Besides Inos, Ayuyu and Villagomez, the other officials who met on Wednesday on Capital Hill were Senate Health Committee chairman Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Rota Health Center resident director Crispin Ayuyu, and Medical Referral Office's Ron Sablan.

Tight procedures

Villagomez said while DPH agreed to suspend the implementation of the travel costs being shifted over to the Rota and Tinian Health Centers, "the procedures to tighten and control these expenditures have to start immediately."

"While we may be one of the critical essential services that is typically exempted from reductions, the fact remains that the overall budget continues to decrease and our allocation will also decrease when the overall budget is down," he said.

He said at the meeting, they discussed the need to have the physicians from Rota and Tinian Health Centers to communicate with physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan regarding patients that need to be referred "before they are referred."

The health secretary said there have been cases of patients and escort being sent to CHC on Saipan from either Rota or Tinian "without any knowledge of the medical staff here at CHC."

Villagomez said there have also been instances where patients and escorts are referred to CHC for medical care "and do not even show up" at CHC.

"These are the issues that we said have and needs to be addressed so that we decrease the expenditures on travel for medical referral between from both Rota and Tinian. This amount has been approaching $300,000 per year in the recent years," he said.

Ayuyu, for his part, said enforcing the DPH rule on transportation costs will be an added "burden" to the Rota and Tinian municipalities which barely have enough for their current obligations.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Saipan) said while he's not at the meeting, he later learned about the suspension of the rule.

"It's somewhat a relief for the municipalities of Tinian and Rota because they won't need to come up with the money right away to fund the inter-island transportation of their patients. At least the expenses won't be in the hands of the Rota and Tinian mayors at this time," he said.

Conner said transporting Tinian patients to Saipan for medical referrals costs some $70,000 a year.

Even before the meeting was to occur, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) had already asked the health secretary to temporarily suspend DPH's rule which he described as "disastrous for the health of our people."

He said Rota and Tinian people "will be forced to go without the treatment they need" because of the municipalities' slim budgets.

"I ask for your consideration and suspend this change, at least until a new budget is passed which might provide funds for medical referral to Tinian and Rota," Manglona told Villagomez in a March 4 letter.

'Eat Right With Color' Student Cook-off today

» Free sampling for the public starts at 9:30am

The CNMI Nutrition Month Committee is inviting the community to stop by the "Eat Right with Color" Student Cook-Off today, March 12, 2011 at the Pacific Islands Club. The event is open to the public for sampling from 9:30am to 11:30am.

Thirty-three student finalists from eight public and private schools around the CNMI will be competing to prepare colorful and tasty dishes in five categories: healthy snacks, healthy salads, healthy appetizers, vegetarian entrees, and main Entrees. The students' dishes will be judged based on the number of colors (fruits and vegetables) used, number of locally-sourced fruits and vegetables, nutrient content, creativity, presentation, and taste.

Prizes for the winning student teams include waterpark passes from the Pacific Islands Club, Mega Zone gametime vouchers, gift certificates for fresh local produce from the Sabalu Market provided by the Commonwealth Cancer Association, culinary promotional items from the Public School System, go-kart passes donated by Marianas Trekking, and cash.

The schools represented by the winning student teams will also each receive a $500 purchase order for sports equipment from the Public School System.

National Nutrition Month is an annual nutrition education campaign spearheaded by the American Dietetic Association to encourage healthier eating habits and a physically active lifestyle. This year's theme is "Eat Right with Color"

The CNMI Nutrition Month Committee includes the Public School System, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, NMC CREES, and the Women, Infants, and Children program.

In addition to the Student Recipe Contest & Cook-Off, the Nutrition Month Committee is spearheading a "Healthy Lunch Promotion" with participating restaurants around the island, including Chambre/Fiesta Resort, Kinpachi, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Subway, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and Shenanigans.

Last Saturday, March 5, "Eat Right with Color" food demonstrations were conducted at participating grocery stories on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

Team Aschoscho leads 'Walk for Cancer' today

Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Aschoscho will be leading a "Walk For Cancer" today, Saturday, March 12, 2011, starting at Kilili Beach. Registration opens at 7am.

Team Aschoscho has also coordinated free health screenings for the community in partnership with the Department of Public Health, and fruits, water, and information materials about health and wellness will be offered to participants.

The purpose of the walk is to promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity.

Team Aschoscho is partnering with Ayuda Network, the Department of Public Health, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association This year's MMAC is scheduled for May 13-14 at Hopwood Junior High School field.

For more information about the Walk for Cancer, contact Team Aschoscho team captain Nadia Saralu at 288-1458. For more information about the Marianas March Against Cancer, contact 2011 MMAC chair Dave Guerrero at dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com, or contact CCA program manager Tina Sablan at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Eucon sets 3rd classical concert

Eucon International College will hold its third concert featuring classical pieces from well-known composers. This classical concert will feature mostly popular pieces using instruments such as piano, flute, violin, trumpet, traditional Chinese instruments, and others. There will be vocal intermission numbers but the concert will be mostly instrumental.

The concert will start at 6pm at Eucon's Auditorium, which has a capacity of over 400. Tickets are $5 each. For more information, call [670] 234-3207 and look for Selena or Grace or email selena_hli@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Board of Regents

Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Monday, March 14, 2011
10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
- A. Roll Call
- B. Review and Adoption of Agenda

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
- A. March 3, 2011 – Special meeting
- B. February 28, 2011 – Special meeting
- C. February 19, 2011 – Special meeting
- D. February 10, 2011 – Special meeting
- E. December 22, 2010 – Regular meeting

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
- A. NMC March 15, 2011 Show Cause Report

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Juan T. Lizama, Chairperson, Board of Regents — March 12, 2011, Date

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg. in Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. January 4, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

II. **Public Comments[1]**

III. **Executive Session[2]**
- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel
- c. Other matters

IV. **Reports**
- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
  - i. CIA
  - ii. CIP
  - iii. FPA
  - iv. SEEIP
  - v. LIA
  - vi. Ad Hoc
  - vii. School Reform
  - viii. Student Representative
- c. Commissioner of Education
  - i. Financial Status Reports
    - a. Federal
    - b. Local
  - ii. Other matters

V. **Unfinished Business**

VI. **New Business**
1. §60-20-720 Accounting and Reporting: Travel Outside the CNMI as Final
2. §60-20-721 Accounting and Reporting: Travel Within the CNMI as Final
3. Proposed Interim Assignment
4. Proposed Amendment to Consolidated Grant
5. Proposed Amendment for Garapan Elementary School (GES) 5 classroom building
6. Proposed FY 2012 Budget
7. Proposed Instructor Requirement to align with Title I
8. Proposed Policy on Instructor Classification based on National Certification or Occupation License
9. Proposed Amendment to PSS Organizational Chart (Fiscal & Budget Office and Others)
10. Proposed PSS Functional Chart
11. Ratification of Letter to Lt. Governor "no delay on payroll" - PSS FY2011 Financial Contingency Plan
12. Ratification of PSS and BOE commitment letter to the proposed Koblerville Jr. High School and expenditure and contractual authority - letter to US Congressional Delegate Kilili
13. Annual Report 2010
14. FY 2010 Draft Audit and Responses
15. BOE PD Funds Revision
16. Ratification of PSS-BOE Comment to HB No. 17-59, HD1, SD2: To amend 3 CMC Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 3 §1312, "Postsecondary Education Act of 1984."
17. Ratification of PSS-BOE Comment to SLI No. 17-03, "To propose a constitutional amendment to explicitly state that qualified retirees may be reemployed…"
18. Ratification of PSS-BOE Comment to HB No. 17-43, "To establish a CNMI Office of Transit Authority within the Office of the Governor"
19. Proposed Procedure on Test Security
20. CCLHS Credit in Junior High School
21. Proposed Amendment to §60-20-434 (b) Graduation Requirements for High School Level
22. Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Math
23. Proposed Policy on Dual Enrollment and Dual Enrollment Guidelines
24. Career and Technical Education 5 year strategic Plan 2010-2015
25. PEER Review
26. Proposed Revision and Amendments to §60-20-910 Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect
27. Proposed Head Lice Policy and Regulation for K through 12

VII. **Miscellaneous Matters**
1. NMI History Book Proposal

VIII. **Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**

VIX. **Adjournment**

1 Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
2 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

QUAKE

From Page 1

northern Japan," Prime Minister Naoto Kan said at a news conference.

Even for a country used to earthquakes, this one was of horrific proportions. It unleashed a 23-foot (7-meter) tsunami that swept boats, cars, buildings and tons of debris miles inland.

Large fishing boats and other sea vessels rode high waves into the cities, slamming against overpasses. Upturned and partially submerged vehicles were seen bobbing in the water.

Waves of muddy waters swept over farmland near the city of Sendai, carrying buildings, some on fire, inland as cars attempted to drive away. Sendai airport, north of Tokyo, was inundated with cars, trucks, buses and thick mud deposited over its runways. Fires spread through a section of the city, public broadcaster NHK reported.

The tsunami roared over embankments, washing anything in its path inland before reversing directions and carrying the cars, homes and other debris out to sea. Flames shot from some of the houses, probably because of burst gas pipes.

"Our initial assessment indicates that there has already been enormous damage," Chief government spokesman Yukio Edano said. "We will make maximum relief effort based on that assessment."

He said the Defense Ministry was sending troops to the quake-hit region. A utility aircraft and several helicopters were on the way.

A large fire erupted at the Cosmo oil refinery in Ichihara city in Chiba prefecture near Tokyo and was burning out of control with 100-foot (30 meter) -high flames whipping into the sky.

In northeastern Japan's Miyagi prefecture, a fire broke out in a turbine building of a nuclear power plant. Smoke was observed coming out of the building, which is separate from the plant's reactor, and the cause is under investigation, said Tohoku Electric Power Co. the company said.

There have been no reports of radioactive leaks or injuries, the company said. Several nuclear plants elsewhere along the coast were also partially shut down, with no reports of leakage.

Also from Miyagi prefecture, NHK showed footage of a large ship being swept away and ramming directly into a breakwater in Kesennuma city.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the 2:46 p.m. quake was a magnitude 8.9, the biggest earthquake to hit Japan since officials began keeping records in the late 1800s. A tsunami warning was extended to a number of Pacific, Southeast Asian and Latin American nations.

The quake struck at a depth of six miles (10 kilometers), about 80 miles (125 kilometers) off the eastern coast, the agency said. The area is 240 miles (380 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo.

In downtown Tokyo, large buildings shook violently and workers poured into the street for safety. TV footage showed a large building on fire and bellowing smoke in the Odaiba district of Tokyo. The tremor bent the upper tip of the iconic Tokyo Tower, a 333-meter (1,093-foot) steel structure inspired by the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

In central Tokyo, trains were stopped and passengers walked along the tracks to platforms. NHK said more than 4 million buildings were without power in Tokyo and its suburbs.

Large numbers of people waited at Tokyo's Shinjuku station, the world's busiest train station, for service to resume so they could go home. TV announcers urged workers not to leave their offices to prevent injuries in case of more strong aftershocks.

Osamu Akiya, 46, was working in Tokyo at his office in a trading company when the quake hit.

It sent bookshelves and computers crashing to the floor, and cracks appeared in the walls.

"I've been through many earthquakes, but I've never felt anything like this," he said. "I don't know if we'll be able to get home tonight."

Footage on NHK from their Sendai office showed employees stumbling around and books and papers crashing from desks. It also showed a glass shelter at a bus stop in Tokyo completely smashed by the quake and a weeping woman nearby being comforted by another woman.

TSUNAMI

From Page 1

Emergency officials in Saipan were sent to see if reports of receding water on Saipan are true, said Angel Demapan, spokesman for the office of Gov. Benigno Fitial. Confirmation was not immediately available last night.

An Associated Press report stated that waves of about 2.6 feet (nearly a meter) high hit the beach on Saipan but this could not be independently confirmed with the Emergency Management Office.

The EMO, in a bulletin issued at 4:30pm, said the 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit at 3:46pm east of Honshu, Japan.

EMO's John Takai Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that residents began evacuating to higher ground at 4:45pm,with the first tsunami wave estimated to hit the CNMI at 7:01pm.

A tsunami warning means that immediate action is required and all residents are ordered to evacuate to higher ground.

Department of Public Safety commissioner Santiago F. Tudela said he deployed police officers to low-lying areas to advise people to proceed to higher ground after DPS received instruction to do so from EMO.

Most hotels evacuated their guests to the third floor or higher.

Inmates of the Department of Corrections were evacuated to the field in front of the NMC gymnasium.

Hundreds of people were seen lining up at gas stations in elevated areas.

Tsunami warnings were in effect for Japan, Northern Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Russia, Marcus Island, and Taiwan.

A tsunami watch was initially issued for Yap, the Philippines, Marshall Islands, Palau, Midway Island, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Johnston Island, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Hawaii. This was later expanded to include the entire Pacific coast of the Americas, including the entire US West Coast.

Waves about 1.5 feet (half a meter) high hit Wake Island in the Northern Pacific yesterday, meaning the biggest waves to hit Hawaii could reach more than 6 feet (nearly 2 meters), said Gerard Fryer, a geophysicist for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Residents in coastal areas across the Pacific from Hawaii to Guam were ordered to evacuate to shelters and higher ground. In Hawaii's tourist district of Waikiki, visitors were being moved to higher floors of their hotels. Residents waited in long lines stocking up on gas, bottled water, canned food and generators.

Tsunamis can travel at speeds of 500 mph (800 kph), as fast as a jetliner. Waves could hit the western coast of the United States between 7am and 7:30am PST.

The warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center cover an area stretching the entire western coast of the United States and Canada from the Mexican border to Chignik Bay in Alaska.

In Guam, authorities advised people to evacuate low areas of the U.S. territory and seek ground higher than 50 feet (15 meters) above sea level and 100 feet (30 meters) inland.

EMO said vertical elevation or evacuation areas at 30 feet elevation should be a safe area route or zone.

Japan's NHK reported that a 13-foot (4-meter) tsunami wave hit the northeastern part of Japan near the earthquake's epicenter, and that vehicles, houses, and buildings were swept away by the tsunami in Onahama city in Fukushima prefecture. ***(With AP)***

IMAGES

From Page 1

"I'm nervous, I'm hungry, and I pray it won't happen," said a trembling Lina Dorde, as she waited by the roadside near Coffee Care on Capital Hill for her two children to join her.

Dorde was one of hundreds of people on Saipan who trooped to Capital Hill and other evacuation routes.

Vehicles took up all available spaces in front or near Coffee Care leading to Capital Hill. People there watched the ocean and look for signs of a tsunami.

Driving further up Capital Hill, more vehicles were parked in open areas and roadsides near the Emergency Management Office intersection, to the road leading to Mount Tapochau and then to the baseball field, the Office of the Governor, and the Legislature.

But while a tsunami warning was hoisted, a softball game on Capital Hill went on as scheduled.

Public School System buses also went up to the open area near the PSS office on Capital Hill.

"I was born here and grew up here but this is the first time I have gone to a higher ground because of a tsunami warning," Joseph Yamada of As Mahetog told *Saipan Tribune* while he was sitting on the bed of a pickup truck by the roadside leading to Capital Hill.

Crystal Seidler and her 1-year-old son also waited on the pickup truck bed for 7pm to pass.

"It's my first time to come up here because of a tsunami warning," she said.

Bong Salasibar, a security guard, also went to Capital Hill around 6:20pm but he said his duty as a security guard in Tanapag was supposed to start at 6:30pm.

"I think I will wait for 7 o'clock and if there's none, then I will report to work," Salasabar said.

Glenn Abergos, manager at Truong's Restaurant in Susupe, said they closed the restaurant around 6:15 and sent home all the employees. The San Antonio resident met up with friends on Capital Hill.

He said in his eight years on Saipan and after a few tsunami warnings, he has only moved to higher ground twice.

"I got used to it and nothing happened. Hopefully it will never happen here," he said.

But he said he has friends who were still working in the Garapan area even after the tsunami warning was issued.

Angelito Cada, manager at Tony Roma's and Cappriciosa in Garapan, said when the tsunami alert was issued, he had to go to each of the customers' tables to tell them the need to evacuate as soon as possible. They closed the restaurants around 5:30pm.

Major establishments in Garapan, including DFS Galleria, also closed shop. At close to 9pm, smaller businesses including bars in Garapan started reopening.

A 40-year-old Chinese taxi driver, who has been on Saipan for 14 years, said this was his first time to flee to higher ground. He joined other people who were in front or near Coffee Care.

John Imperial, 38, said it was his first time to feel fear when a tsunami alert was hoisted because of the live images of the destruction in Japan he saw on TV.

"I feared mostly for my four children's safety," he said, as he waited in front of Coffee Care where he works as a chef. His children are 1 year to 13 years old.

Even those living near Susupe Lake were told to evacuate.

Some areas on Capital Hill became picnic grounds. Families spread blankets on grassy areas where their children could play. Others were using their laptops while waiting for the all-clear signal.

Residents also trooped to Navy Hill, Dandan, Kagman, and San Vicente, among other safe routes.

Some, even at 7:35pm, were still going up Capital Hill.

George Villasan, 49, said were it not for the images he saw on CNN about the quake and tsunami in Japan, he would have just stayed at his house in Lower Base.

"It's scary," he said.

On Rota, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said police officers were going to houses in Songsong Village to chivvy residents to higher ground.

"Nurses were called in to work and patients were evacuated to Man'amko Center located in Sinapalo village," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

FOR THE RECORD

The world's strongest earthquakes and tsunamis

- March 11, 2011: A magnitude 8.9 quake strikes off the northeast coast of Japan, sending a tsunami across the Pacific and killing a still-undetermined number of people.
- October 2010: A volcanic eruption and a tsunami kill more than 500 people in Indonesia.
- February 2010: A 8.8 magnitude quake shakes Chile, generating a tsunami and killing 524 people.
- September 2009: A magnitude 8.0 earthquake unleashes tsunamis of up to 40 feet (12 meters) and killing 194 people in the South Pacific, including 34 in American Samoa.
- September 2007: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake rattles Sumatra island, triggering regional tsunami alerts and damaging scores of buildings.
- September 2007: An earthquake measured at a magnitude of 8.4 near Sumatra triggers a wave in the coastal city of Padang. The tremor kills at least 25 people and injures around 50.
- April 2007: At least 28 people in the Solomon Islands die in a tsunami and earthquake measured at a magnitude of 8.1.
- July 2006: A magnitude 6.1 earthquake triggers a tsunami off Java island's southern coast, killing at least 600 people.
- March 2005: A magnitude 8.6 quake in northern Sumatra kills about 1,300 people.
- December 2004: An Indian Ocean tsunami, triggered by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, kills 230,000 in a dozen countries.
- August 1976: A magnitude 8.0 earthquake hits near the islands of Mindanao and Sulu in the Philippines, generating a tsunami and leaving at least 5,000 dead.
- March 1964: A 9.2 magnitude earthquake in Prince William Sound, Alaska, kills 131 people, including 128 from a tsunami.
- May 1960: A magnitude 9.5 earthquake in southern Chile and ensuing tsunami kill at least 1,716 people.
- November 1952: A magnitude 9.0 quake in Kamchatka causes damage but no reported deaths despite setting off 30-foot (9.1-meter) waves in Hawaii.
- August 1950: A magnitude 8.6 earthquake in Assam, Tibet, kills at least 780 people.
- April 1946: An earthquake measured at a magnitude of 8.1 near Unimak Islands, Alaska, triggers a tsunami, killing 165 people, mostly in Hawaii.
- January 1906: A magnitude 8.8 quake off the coast of Ecuador and Colombia generates a tsunami that kills at least 500 people.
- August 1868: A magnitude 9.0 quake in Arica, Peru (now Chile) generates catastrophic tsunamis; more than 25,000 people were killed in South America.
- April 1868: A 7.9-magnitude earthquake strikes the Big Island, Hawaii, killing 77 people, including 46 from a tsunami.
- November 1755: A magnitude 8.7 quake and ensuing tsunami in Lisbon, Portugal, kill an estimated 60,000 people and destroy much of Lisbon.
- July 1730: A magnitude 8.7 quake in Valparasio, Chile, kills at least 3,000 people.
- January 1700: A magnitude 9.0 quake shakes present-day Northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Colombia and triggers tsunami that damages villages in Japan.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology and WHO's International Disaster Database/Associated Press

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

Escape from Libya

By BASHIR SEWEHLI
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

The last time we heard from my father was early in the morning of March 1, when he phoned my brother to tell him, "I'm about to be arrested." My father, who called from my family's house in Tripoli, urged my brother, who lives in Manchester, England, to look after the family and to continue fighting the Libyan regime, no matter what happened to him.

Col. Moammar Gadhafi's regime had already arrested three of my brothers who still lived in Libya. Only my mother and two sisters remain free, at least for the moment.

Because I hold a British passport—I was born in the United Kingdom and lived there until 1989 ,Äì,Äì I managed to make my way out of Libya the day after my father's arrest.

Life in Tripoli has become impossible, with the city a virtual ghost town. No one goes to work or school. People go out only to obtain the basic necessities. No one goes out after dark for any reason.

Looking back, it's clear it was only a matter of time until my father, Abdul Rahman, an outspoken critic of the Gadhafi regime, would be arrested.

As soon as the uprising began, he began giving interviews on the BBC, Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya television, using his real name.

Of course, it was dangerous, but my father said he wasn't afraid.

Once we learned of a plot to kill my father, we fled our home and sought shelter with friends scattered across the city.

But the regime has a lot of informants. Three of my brothers were tracked down almost immediately and jailed. We still do not know the charges they face or where they are being held.

My father knew that he was the regime's real target. Once he heard that his sons had been arrested, he returned to our home and waited.

He didn't have to wait long. We're not sure exactly what happened, except that the authorities vandalized our home while making the arrest.

"I think you should leave," my mother told me shortly after the arrest. "If you stay it will only make things worse." So even thought it meant leaving my mother and sisters behind, the next day I boarded a ferry evacuating British citizens from Libya.

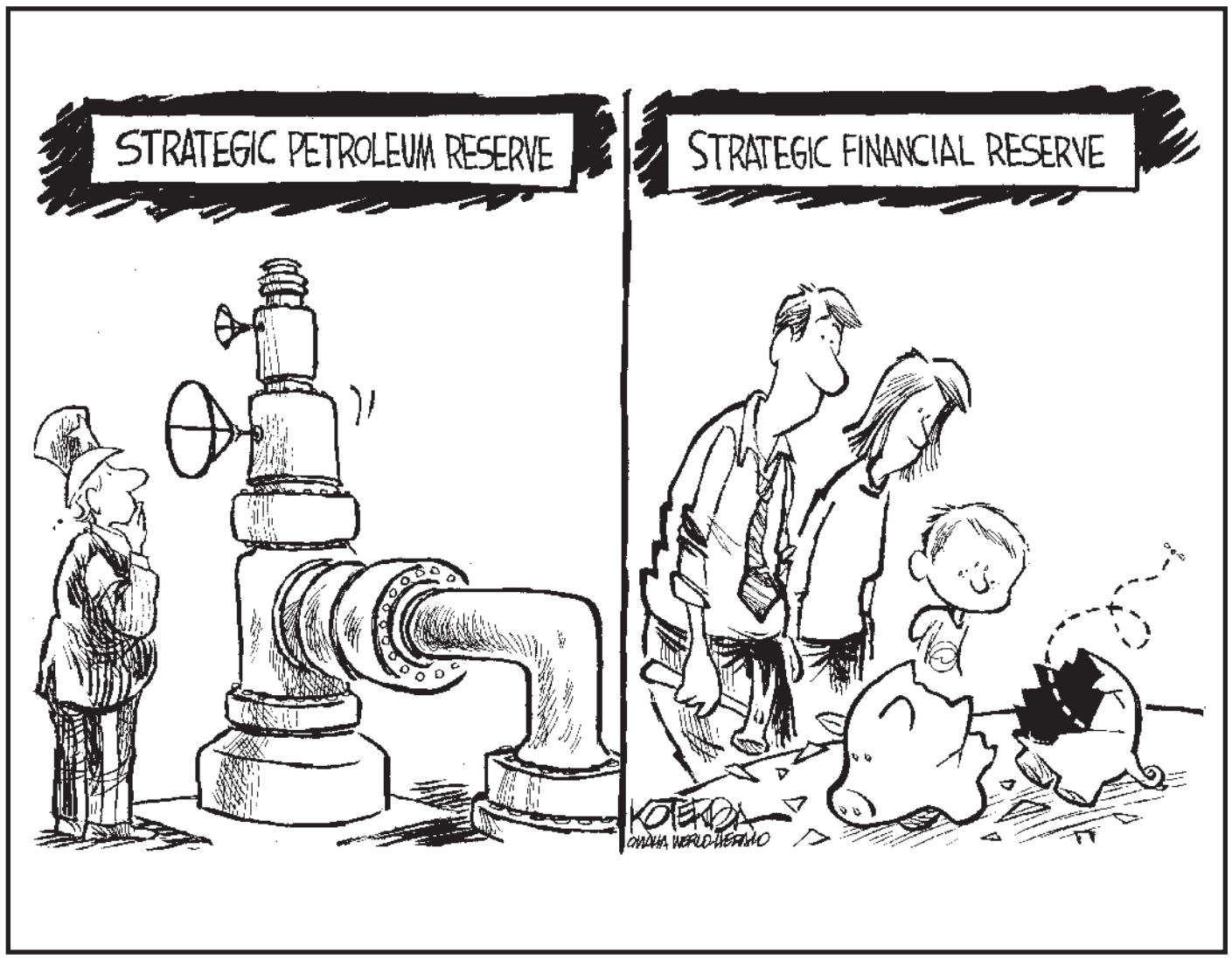
Now, I just wait. Wait for Gadhafi to fall. Wait for the international community to act.

I'm not sure what the international community is waiting for. Do they expect some magic figure to emerge? What number of Libyan lives must be sacrificed before foreign leaders decide to act? Those who worry about the possible outbreak of a civil war are mistaken. A civil war requires two big groups that fight one another because they want different things. That isn't the case here.

Here it is just Gadhafi's troops fighting against the people.

The only way that Gadhafi can hold onto power is if he kills 6.5 million Libyans. If that happens, then he is welcome to stay and rule over the Libyan desert.

Bashir Sewehli works for an oil and gas company in Libya and provided this article to The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.



Polarization likely to only worsen

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.*

Individualism is dead.

That's the stark take-away from an analysis of congressional voting records by the National Journal.

Since 1982, the Journal has combed congressional votes on key issues and rated legislators' records. Last year, it reviewed 95 significant votes in both chambers using a relative, not absolute, measure. In other words, it seeks to compare members with one another, so, for example, a liberal score of 70 means that member is more liberal than 70 percent of his or her colleagues.

In analyzing votes cast in 2010, the Journal concluded that the level of polarization was the highest in three decades of measurement. Every Senate Democrat compiled a voting record more liberal than every Senate Republican, and every Senate Republican compiled a voting record more conservative than every Senate Democrat. The House of Representatives was similarly divided.

In 1982, for comparison, 36 Senate Democrats scored as conservative as Lowell Weicker, the most liberal Republican, and 24 Senate Republicans were as liberal as the most conservative Democrat, Edward Zorinsky. In other words, 60 percent of the Senate was somewhere in the middle!

Since then, the "the ideological outliers have been purged," I was told recently by Ronald Brownstein, political director of the Journal and author of "The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America." "The story of the last three decades of American politics is unstinting polarization, a fusion of ideology and partisanship."

Gone are the days when Jesse Helms and Jacob Javits were colleagues in the Senate Republican caucus, while Hubert Humphrey and Richard Russell were both Democrats. Arlen Specter once discussed with me a meeting of moderate Republicans who gathered once a week to discuss policy and strategy. In the early 1980s, the group had two dozen members. By his last term in office, Specter was saying that "the moderates can meet in a phone booth."

The trend is unmistakable and raises two questions: What accounts for the change? And is it necessarily negative?

Brownstein argued that a combination of factors explains the purge. First, he pointed toward changes in party leadership that facilitate ascendance based not on seniority but on the support of colleagues. This puts more pressure on legislators to toe a party line. For example, then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ousted Rep. John Dingell as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee when he wouldn't go along on climate change.

Matt Bennett, co-founder of the centrist Democratic think tank Third Way, said members of Congress were polarized as a result of what he called "the great sorting out."

"Congressional districts have gotten redder and bluer, and people have chosen to live with like-minded folks," Bennett told me. "Add to that the phenomenon of closed primaries that occur at odd times (such as the middle of August) with extremely low turnout (around 4 percent), and you're left with only the most committed members of the two parties choosing their congressional and Senate candidates."

Brownstein agreed, saying the primary process tended to reward the most ideologically driven candidates. This makes sense: Often the most passionate voters show up on primary day, and passion is often driven by ideology.

And let's not forget the rise of the partisan media.

"The Internet, talk radio, cable TV all provide huge amplifiers for angry voices, which has created a system in which bad behavior (hyper-partisanship) is rewarded and bipartisanship is punished," said Mark McKinnon, a GOP strategist who has worked for George W. Bush, John McCain, Lance Armstrong and Bono.

The period of polarization in Congress charted by the Journal overlaps the rise of opinionated media. Rush Limbaugh launched nationally in 1988. Fox News went live in 1996. MSNBC hired Keith Olbermann in 2003. The split-screen television treatment of colleagues is now seen in Washington.

To what effect?

Political pragmatists are lacking in representation even as more Americans identify their general approach to issues as "moderate" than very liberal or conservative or somewhat liberal or conservative.

"It's crazy and makes no sense," McKinnon said, "but while voters are getting more independent, our elected officials are becoming more dependent and responsive to the constituencies represented by fringe organizations who find a powerful and disproportionate voice through cable TV, talk radio, and the Internet."

Republicans are losing a voice in the Northeast. Democrats are disappearing from the South. And when consensus can't be reached, problems don't get solved.

"When one party has to pass legislation on its own," Brownstein said, "it shoots for center of its own coalition, which is not the center of the country. And when you do that, little by little ... you are increasingly pulling away from the middle."

So will it change? Probably not until it gets worse.

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Obama's wise restraint echoes first President Bush

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News*. Readers may write to him via e-mail at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

On the day the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989, I remember watching President George H.W. Bush react with reserve and an absence of gloating despite the sheer size of that victory for democracy, signaling the West's triumph in the Cold War.

Bush's low-key stance drew some criticism. But combined with subsequent encouragement of both Soviet restraint and the region's democratic forces, it helped pave the way for a peaceful transition that ended nearly five decades of artificial political and military barriers within Europe.

In a sense, the democratic revolutions sweeping the Arab world bear some similarities to the ones two decades ago in Eastern Europe. They, too, reflect the impact of a global communications revolution, although they basically represent indigenous uprisings fueled by long-simmering resentment of authoritarian rule.

And President Obama, coping with the same sorts of issues the Bush faced two decades ago, is showing the same wise restraint, despite pressure for a more assertive U.S. role, especially in the bitter struggle now enmeshing Libya.

Obama's path ultimately should turn out to be the best one, especially since the Arab world's transition may prove far more complex than Eastern Europe's transformation from Soviet satellite to sometimes uneasy partners with the West.

The countries that stretch from Morocco in northwest Africa to the oil-rich Persian Gulf emirates make up one of the world's most volatile regions, partly due to continuing tensions from the Arab-Israeli dispute and partly from strains within Islam itself.

Not only does Obama's careful approach resemble that of Bush, it also mirrors those of other Cold War presidents from both parties who resisted direct U.S. involvement in the sporadic anti-Soviet uprisings that rocked Eastern Europe from World War II to the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Like them, he seeks to encourage the spread of democracy while avoiding anything that makes the U.S. an issue in the uprisings or undermines the fragile stability of a region on whose rich oil supplies Americans remain heavily dependent.

Obama showed how to balance those tensions in his evolving response to the demonstrations that caused the ouster of Egypt's longtime pro-U.S. president, Hosni Mubarak. Initially restrained because Mubarak has so often supported U.S. policies, Obama helped show him the door when it became evident change was inevitable.

In Libya, by contrast, the U.S. position has been less ambivalent and more direct, namely because the country's embattled leader, Moammar Gadhafi, is an unstable despot not particularly friendly to this country and because a speedy resolution will help ensure the continued flow of oil.

Obama is considering joining top U.S. allies in implementing some sort of an international "no-fly" zone to protect Libyan rebels. But Obama has wisely resisted pressure for a more active U.S. military role from those who seem determined to ignore the lessons from Vietnam to Iraq, in that what seems simple to start can turn complicated, costly and virtually unending.

Future events in the Arab world are likely to proceed with unforeseen twists and turns, given the vagaries of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the parallel conflicts within Islam between fundamentalist and modernist forces and between rival Sunni and Shiite factions.

So far, leaders of the Egyptian and Tunisian uprisings seem to reflect the U.S. hope that democratic, pro-U.S. governments will emerge. But fundamentalist forces are major players in Yemen, and the future seems especially hazy in places like Saudi Arabia.

Still, Obama shows he understands that while these countries continue to play an important role affecting American security, the U.S. can't control events in them. Failure to heed that lesson could detract from the positive forces already at work.

He's Charlie Sheen, and you're not

By NEAL GABLER
Los Angeles Times

Neal Gabler is at work on a biography of Edward M. Kennedy. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Say what you will about Charlie Sheen—that he is a raving lunatic, an egomaniac, a train wreck, an anti-Semite, a drug-addled cautionary tale—he has also actually made some sense this past week by offering up a reasonably astute analysis of the relationship between the public and its celebrities. In fact, Sheen seems to have decided to liberate himself by liberating us from the illusions we harbor about the stars.

Most of us want to think of celebrities as ordinary folks who, by dint of talent, hard work and a bit of luck, ascended to the heights. We want to think of them that way, one suspects, because it binds them more closely to us and because it allows us to indulge the fantasy that it could be us up there on the screen.

Unlike Europeans, Americans have never much tolerated Sarah Bernhardts, the sort of *grande artistes* who exist in a different and higher realm from the hoi polloi. We take our democracy seriously, right into entertainment. We like a star who is modest, self-effacing, self-deprecating—in effect, one of us. That's why the fan magazines in the 1930s and 1940s featured Clark Gable and Carol Lombard lolling in their backyard just like any old married couple, or Joan Crawford tending to her brood just like any old mother.

This was the basic contract: Entertain us, and we'll grant you fame, riches and adoration—so long as you remain one of us. Violate that contract at the peril of your career. Abide by it, like, say, Tom Hanks, and you will be rewarded with longevity. All we ask is that you be, or at least appear to be, normal.

Bruce Willis once described the basic trajectory of celebrity in America as having four stages: You arrive, you peak, you bomb and you come back. Whether he realized it or not, Willis was also describing the phases that anthropologist Joseph Campbell had discerned for the hero across cultures—save for one thing. Heroes don't bomb. That is a distinctly American interpolation, one designed to ensure that our demigods never confuse themselves with gods. As our stars rose into the heavens, we reserved the right to humble them, to bring them back to Earth. Think of Eddie Murphy or John Travolta or Tom Cruise, all of whom seemed to get too big for their britches and were brought down a peg for it.

So Charlie Sheen's verboten media blitz flaunting a lifestyle that is decidedly not shared by the vast majority of his fans (how many of us have two live-in porn star "goddesses" or can profess to have consumed an amount of cocaine that would have killed a mortal?) explicitly violates the contract, which seems to have been Sheen's point.

He says he isn't off the rails like Mel Gibson or Lindsay Lohan. He insists he is the engineer. He is doing exactly what he wants to do, what his riches and fame allow and entitle him to do. As he puts it, he is embracing his "rock star" life.

The irony is that living large and doing exactly as he pleases has long been a central ingredient in Sheen's appeal. His role on "Two and a Half Men" as a womanizing, footloose bachelor seems lifted out of his real life, which is one of the reasons it is funny. We think we are seeing Sheen spoofing himself. When Sheen reminded us that his life is even more extreme than his character's, the media turned censorious—an example of trying to have your comedy and revile it too. Sheen is absolutely right to call this hypocrisy. He has never pretended to be a Boy Scout. He has always purported to be precisely the opposite.

More broadly, even as Sheen blows the whistle on the idea that celebrities are just like us (or that he has ever been anything other than a loose cannon), he also reveals the cracks in the "humble star-grateful audience" contract. When Willis was making his observations on celebrity some 15 years ago, he explained that Americans everywhere, having seen the benefits of fame, desired it. Increasingly, he noted, it isn't what we have in common with stars that binds us to them; it's exactly the opposite. Privilege and arrogance once repulsed us. Now, in our amped-up, success-obsessed culture, it attracts us.

And if Sheen isn't the first celebrity to be overtly imperial, he may be the first to tell us just how imperial he is. Think "Adonis DNA," and "winning, duh."

And that may be Sheen's real infraction to his detractors: In letting us know that he is nothing like us—that his life is the American dream on steroids and that many of us, as he says, are jealous of him for it—he has shown us that envy is at least as potent a force as identification. With his firing this week, one might even say that he sacrificed his career for the cause.

It's time to unlock America's oil resources

By ANDREW P. MORRISS
McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

Andrew Morriss is the D. Paul Jones Jr. and Charlene A. Jones Chair in Law and professor of business at the University of Alabama.

Oil and gas resources in the United States are growing. Surprised? Many people are, because we usually think of oil and gas as fixed pools gradually being depleted. But the combination of new technology and higher prices are making reserves available that were previously unknown or uneconomic.

Unfortunately, many such resources are controlled by the federal government. Hostility to petroleum and natural gas production in the United States is preventing their development. It's time to rethink the policies that hinder domestic energy production.

Any rational discussion of U.S. energy policy must begin by recognizing that our economy depends on oil and natural gas and will do so for the foreseeable future, regardless of how much money we pour into subsidies for alternatives.

Petroleum provides 37 percent of our energy, and 95 percent of the energy used in transportation. Natural gas provides 23.8 percent of our energy, including a third of the energy used for residential, commercial and industrial uses. Coal produces an additional 23 percent of our energy.

Renewable energy—including the large hydro power plants hated by environmentalists—provides just 7.3 percent of our energy. We have poured billions into subsidies for ethanol, wind and solar energy, yet these technologies remain uneconomical and provide a trivial amount of our energy needs.

The trucks we see on the highway are part of a vast logistical network that makes American factories and retailers efficient and enables us to have everything from books to groceries delivered to our door.

Our valuable infrastructure of roads, gas stations, pipelines, furnaces, industrial equipment, power plants, and more in place today mean that changing to other forms of energy—even if they were available at competitive prices—will be a slow, expensive process that will take decades.

There are no magic technologies to end completely our dependence on energy sources from outside North America. But there are technologies available today that can be deployed on existing, known energy reserves and which will lead to additional improvements in technology and discovery of additional reserves.

The federal government estimates that there are 86 billion barrels of oil on the outer continental shelf. We consume around 7.6 billion barrels of oil per year. The government also estimates there are 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas offshore—enough for about 14 years domestic use at current rates.

Onshore, shale oil and gas recoveries have grown rapidly. In North Dakota alone, oil production doubled between 2008 and 2010. Some industry experts estimate we could increase production by 2.5 million barrels per day just from shale oil and are resources from the Gulf of Mexico.

That's not enough to end our dependence on foreign sources but it is enough to smooth price swings from political instability in the Middle East and restrain price increases. Both effects would boost the economy and, increase employment. Because much of these resources are on federal property, increasing energy production would boost government revenues as well.

Increasing our domestic energy production won't happen overnight. It takes time to identify reserves, drill wells, and bring production on line.

We don't know how much our reserves are, in part because we've put huge areas off-limits to exploration. But waiting isn't going to solve our problems.

We need to start exploring and developing our domestic oil and gas resources now, so the next time there is a crisis in a major oil producer, we don't find ourselves in the same position we are today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

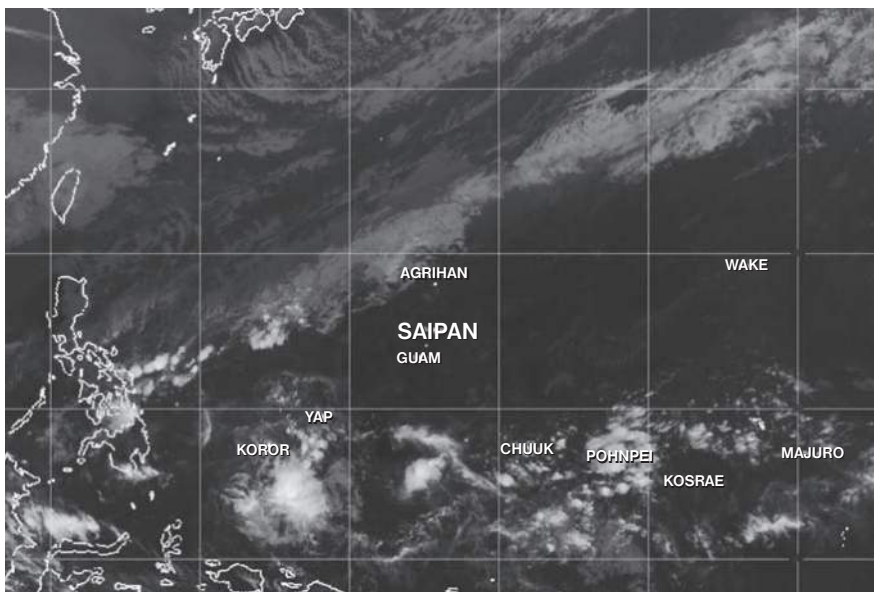
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼34
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼70
London	Showers	▲51	▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲80	▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲77	▼58
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼40
Osaka	Sunny	▲60	▼40
Paris	Cloudy	▲58	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲53	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼35
Tokyo	Sunny	▲60	▼41
Washington, DC	Showers	▲60	▼43

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N160E across the far Northern Marianas to beyond 130E at 12E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough stretches southeastward across the Republic of Palau from 10N132E to 3N136E. Scattered showers are located northwest of Koror between 10N and 7N from 131E to 134E. A surface trough extends northeastward from a weak circulation centered near 4N145E to end at 10N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 7N142E to 7N158E and between 4N and the equator from 148E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers over the Marshall Islands within 70 miles of a line from 9N164E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:06 AM	
Sunday	11:59 AM	12:28 AM
Monday	12:56 PM	1:22 AM
Tuesday	1:55 PM	2:14 AM
Wednesday	2:55 PM	3:05 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Higher oil prices threaten global economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Higher oil prices are slowing global economic growth, and the impact is likely to spread in coming months.

Oil prices helped raise the U.S. trade deficit to a seven-month high in January, when crude prices were $87.50 a barrel. Oil is now trading at more than $100 a barrel, suggesting the gap will widen in coming months. Even fast-growing China isn't immune—higher oil prices contributed to a rare trade deficit there in February.

"It's a bad start, because we all know the oil shock is still coming," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

Pricier oil dampens consumer spending and that cuts into economic growth. Surging oil prices can also stir up inflation fears, triggering higher interest rates that cut into household and business spending.

In January, America's foreign oil bill rose 9.5 percent, or $3.04 billion, to $34.9 billion. That's the highest monthly total since October 2008.

Since then, political turmoil in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia have sent oil prices surging. At the same time, accelerating economic growth in Asia and Latin America has also boosted demand.

The impact is visible in bold numbers each morning on gas station marquees across the United States. Pump prices have risen 13 percent in the past month to a national average of $3.53 a gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

Airlines have also been rapidly raising their fares to offset higher fuel costs. American Airlines said Thursday it is increasing its base fares by $10, the seventh price hike this year by U.S. airlines.

Jay Bryson, global economist at Wells Fargo Securities, said he has cut his U.S. growth estimate for the January-March period to 2.9 percent, down from about 3.3 percent last month. Much of that reduction is due to the impact of higher oil and gas prices.

Asian shares down after Wall Street slumps

TOKYO (AP)—Asian shares extended losses in early trading Friday after the Dow Jones industrial average suffered its biggest one-day drop since August and China reported unexpectedly strong inflation.

Oil prices inched higher to near $103 a barrel Friday in Asia as traders worried protests in Saudi Arabia could escalate and hamper production in the world's largest crude exporter.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average lost 0.8 percent to 10,347.34, and South Korea's Kospi fell 1.5 percent to 1,952.73. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 1.3 percent at 4,640.90.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was down 1 percent to 23,377.92, and mainland China's Shanghai Composite Index drooped 0.4 percent to 2,944.59.

China's February inflation held steady at 4.9 percent as the rise in food prices accelerated, adding to pressure for the communist government to control surging living costs that it worries could fuel unrest.

Inflation in food prices accelerated in February to 11 percent over a year ago, up from January's 10.3 percent increase. That defied forecasts by many analysts, who expected food prices to ease.

In New York Thursday, weak economic news from China, the U.S. and Spain combined with a slump in oil companies to push stocks sharply lower. The Dow fell 228.48 points, or 1.9 percent, to close at 11,984.61.

Investors were jarred when China reported a surprise trade deficit in February. China's exports fell in February as businesses closed for the weeklong Lunar New Year holiday, but imports of higher-priced oil and other goods jumped, widening the country's deficit to $7.3 billion.

Moody's downgraded Spain's debt, re-igniting fears about Europe's debt crisis. In the U.S., the government reported that new applications for unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week.

Meanwhile, escalating discontent in the Middle East and North Africa continued to weigh on sentiment. Protesters already have hampered Libya's oil production, and concerns are growing that similar unrest could spread to the world's largest oil exporter: Saudi Arabia.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 24.91, or 1.9 percent, to 1,295.11. The Nasdaq composite fell 50.70, or 1.8 percent, to 2,701.02.

In currencies, the dollar fell to 82.82 yen from 83.02 yen late Thursday. The euro stood at $1.3823 from $1.3794.

Nation

Obama to bullying victims: I know what it's like

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama smiled when he said his large ears and funny name once made him a target of school-yard harassment. But he was all seriousness Thursday when he told a White House conference on bullying that torment and intimidation must not be tolerated.

Some 13 million students, about a third of all those attending school, are bullied every year, the White House said. Experts say that puts them at greater risk of falling behind in their studies, abusing drugs or alcohol, or suffering mental or other health problems. Kids who are seen as different because of their race, clothes, disability or sexual orientation are more likely to be bullied.

"If there's one goal of this conference," Obama said, "it's to dispel the myth that bullying is just a harmless rite of passage or an inevitable part of growing up. It's not." He spoke to more than 100 parents, students, teachers and others gathered to discuss the problem and share ideas for solutions.

"Bullying can have destructive consequences for our young people. And it's not something we have to accept," he said.

The issue has been getting more attention partly because texting, Facebook, Twitter and other technologies are being used to carry it out—it's called cyberbullying—and because of media coverage of teens who have killed themselves after such taunting.

Families of some of those youngsters joined Obama at the White House, including Tina Meier, of suburban St. Louis. Meier's 13-year-old daughter, Megan, hanged herself in 2006 after falling victim to an Internet hoax carried out, in part, by an adult neighbor who posed as a boy. The neighbor, a woman, was later convicted of a federal misdemeanor in a landmark cyberbullying trial.

"No family should have to go through what these families have gone through," Obama said. "No child should feel that alone."

AP

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama meet with Sarah, second right, and Emily Buder of Mills Valley, Calif., right, and students and parents from the Conference on Bullying Prevention in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Thursday, March, 10, 2011.

Meier had a message for parents who want to take away their children's computers and other electronic devices to spare them from bullying: It won't work. She urged them instead to get a better understanding of what their kids are doing.

"Technology is out there. We cannot shut it off. Children are not going to allow it to be shut off," Meier told participants. "We have to make sure that we have parents who understand what's going on in their child's online world, as well as the real world."

Speaking as a parent and as a victim, Obama urged everyone to help end bullying by working to create an atmosphere at school where children feel safe and feel like they belong. He said that even he felt out of place growing up.

"I have to say, with big ears and the name that I have, I wasn't immune," said Obama, who moved around a lot as a boy, being born in Hawaii and growing up there and in Indonesia. "I didn't emerge unscathed," he said.

Obama said adults have too often turned a blind eye to the problem by chalking up the harassment to kids being kids. But he said a national attitude adjustment is in order because of the damage that bullying can do.

A White House conference doesn't immediately solve any problem. But what it does do, particularly by involving the president, is tell the country that an issue is, in fact, a problem that requires a national response.

In the case of bullying, the conference also gave Obama another chance to press his education agenda. He has tried to make bullying a part of that by warning that failure to address the behavior puts the U.S. at risk of falling behind other countries academically.

Before breaking into smaller groups, conference participants heard from experts who study bullying. Discussions in the breakout sessions touched on anti-bullying efforts in schools, communities and on campuses, as well as on cyberbullying. Two other sessions were conducted online, including one with Sebelius answering questions.

Wis. defeat could help launch counterattack on GOP

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—With the labor movement suffering an epic defeat in Wisconsin, union leaders plan to use the setback to fire up their members nationwide and mount a major counterattack against Republicans at the ballot box in 2012.

Wisconsin's measure stripping public employees of most bargaining rights swiftly advanced to GOP Gov. Scott Walker on Thursday, and he promised to sign it as soon as possible. But labor leaders say the events in Wisconsin have helped galvanize support for unions across the country. They hope to use the momentum to help fight off other attacks and grow their membership.

Said the president of the AFL-CIO: "I guess I ought to say thank you particularly to Scott Walker. We should have invited him here today to receive the Mobilizer of the Year award from us!"

As several states seek to follow Wisconsin's lead, newly invigorated public unions are looking ahead to the next election. Democrats are pressing to recall Republican opponents of organized labor and turn the debate into a focal point of next year's campaign.

The Wisconsin Assembly voted 53-42 Thursday to pass the bill after about three hours of discussion, far less than the 61-hour, three-day marathon it took to approve a previous version two weeks ago.

The passage drew shouts of "shame, shame, shame" from protesters in the gallery and came only a day after dramatic action in the Republican-controlled Senate, which used a legislative maneuver Wednesday to quickly adopt the bill without any of the 14 Democrats who fled to Illinois three weeks ago.

Democrats said their counterattack efforts were already beginning to bear fruit in the form of donations: The party's Wisconsin chapter said it raised $300,000 overnight and has collected $800,000 from 32,000 donors in just five days.

Party chairman Mike Tate said Senate Democrats have raised $750,000 over the past month alone.

Republicans said they were simply doing what voters wanted.

In last year's election, "people spoke very clearly and very loudly and said they wanted government to change here in Madison," Republican Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald said. "It's a tough vote, but it's the right vote. People are sick of the status quo."

Shortly before the vote, police had to move dozens of protesters who were sitting just outside the Assembly chamber doors, blocking the way for lawmakers. Officers dragged many of them away, but there were no arrests.

Top intel official in hot water over blunt remarks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's top intelligence official fumbled the Obama administration's message Thursday about embattled Moammar Gadhafi's fate, telling Congress that the Libyan leader will prevail in his fight with rebel forces there. It was the latest in a series of public gaffes for James Clapper, the director of national intelligence.

Hours later, the White House distanced President Barack Obama from Clapper's remarks. Obama does not think Gadhafi will prevail, a senior administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss Obama's position on Clapper's comments. The official reiterated Obama's stand that Gadhafi has lost legitimacy and should leave power.

Speaking to senators, Clapper said the Libyan government's military might was stronger than had been described. Clapper said there was no indication that Gadhafi will step down and offer a speedy resolution to the crisis.

"I just think from a standpoint of attrition, that over time, I mean—this is kind of a stalemate back and forth, but I think over the longer term that the (Gadhafi) regime will prevail," Clapper said.

One senator, Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, quickly urged Clapper to resign.

"Unfortunately, this isn't the first questionable comment from the DNI director," Graham said. "However it should be the final straw."

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Clapper has the full confidence of the president. Obama's national security adviser, Tom Donilon, later said the president was happy with Clapper's performance. Donilon, however, walked back Clapper's comments slightly.

"Things in the Middle East right now, and things in Libya in particular right now, need to be looked at not through a static but through a dynamic ... lens," Donilon told reporters. "And if you look at it that way, beyond a narrow view on just kind of numbers of weapons and things that, you get a very different picture."

Clapper wasn't divulging classified information when he was describing the situation in Libya. The head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess Jr., agreed with Clapper's assessment.

ACROSS THE NATION

Giffords hopes to attend husband's shuttle launch

HOUSTON (AP)—Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has shown so much progress in her recovery from a bullet wound to the head that friends and family are making plans for her to attend the launch of her husband's space shuttle mission next month in Florida, a person close to the family told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the family and doctors have not yet publicized the decision. A news conference was scheduled for Friday morning at the Houston hospital where Giffords is undergoing rehabilitation. Giffords was shot in the head Jan. 8 at a political event outside a grocery store in an attack that killed six people and wounded 12 others.

Calif. teen survives plunge off Golden Gate Bridge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A California high school student visiting the Golden Gate Bridge on a Thursday morning field trip climbed over a railing, jumped—possibly on a dare by fellow classmates—and somehow survived the 220-foot plunge into San Francisco Bay that kills dozens of people each year. Most jumpers die a grisly death, with massive internal injuries, broken bones and skull fractures. Some die from internal bleeding, while others drown. But the 17-year-old lived, suffering just a broken tailbone and torn lung. He was rescued by a surfer who paddled over and took him ashore, California Highway Patrol Officer Chris Rardin said.

Army reprimands 9 officers in Fort Hood shooting

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nine Army officers are being reprimanded for leadership failures in connection with the shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, and their failure to detect and report problems with the accused shooter, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, as he moved along in his medical career. Saying that although no single event directly led to the tragedy, Army Secretary John McHugh found that certain officers failed to meet expected standards, an Army statement said Thursday. The officers—all lieutenant or above—will receive punishments ranging from an oral reprimand to the far more serious written letter of censure that is considered a career-ender. Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the November 2009 shooting spree on the Texas military post.

Asia

25 dead as quake topples homes in SW China

BEIJING (AP)—An earthquake toppled more than 1,000 houses and apartment buildings in China's southwest near the border with Myanmar, killing at least 25 people and injuring 250, the government said Friday.

Photos from the scene after the quake struck Thursday showed buildings that buckled, crushing their lower floors. Police, firefighters and soldiers rushed to the area to pull out people trapped in the rubble, including a man and girl stuck in the stairwell of a four-story building, according to state broadcaster China Central Television.

Parts of a supermarket and a hotel caved in, while sidewalks were lined with injured on blankets, being shielded from the sun by large vendor umbrellas.

The Civil Affairs Ministry said that 25 people had been killed in Yunnan province's Yingjiang county. Another 250 people were injured, 134 of them in serious condition, the ministry said in a notice on its website.

The website of the Chinese government earthquake monitoring station said the magnitude-5.8 quake was centered in Yingjiang and struck just before 1 p.m. (0500 GMT) Thursday at a depth of six miles (10 kilometers). The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at a magnitude of 5.4 and at a deeper 21 miles (35 kilometers).

Some 1,200 houses or apartments were crushed by the quake, said Zhao Yunshan, director of Yingjiang government press office. More than 127,000 people have been evacuated to nearby shelters, the Civil Affairs Ministry said.

According to the USGS, more than 1 million people may have been exposed to the worst shaking.

Vice President Xi Jinping, expected to be the country's next leader, called for an "all-out" effort to get food, water and clothing to those affected by the quake, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

More than 1,000 soldiers have been sent to aid in rescue efforts, the news agency said. The quake hit while many people, including students, were home for a customary midday rest, CCTV reported.

Tremors continued to be felt in the area throughout Thursday afternoon and evening, according to CCTV reporter Shu Qian, who was at the disaster scene in Yingjiang County.

The quake's epicenter was in Shiming Village, just over a mile (two kilometers) from the county seat, but triggered a power outage across Yingjiang, which has a population of about 300,000 people, Xinhua said.

By evening, the power supply was still cut off, though water and communications didn't appear to be damaged, Shu said.

A government team that includes the Civil Affairs Ministry has been dispatched to the quake-stricken area, CCTV said. About 5,000 tents, 10,000 quilts and 10,000 coats are also being sent from the central government.

Japan PM says won't resign over foreign donations

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said Friday he will not resign after acknowledging that his office had unknowingly received donations from a foreign supporter—illegal in Japan—days after he lost his foreign minister for a similar reason.

Kan explained during a parliamentary committee session that because the donor had a Japanese name, he did not know the individual was a foreign national.

Kan said his campaign office was investigating the matter and would return the money in full if media reports are confirmed. Major daily the Asahi Shimbun reported Thursday that Kan received a total of 1.04 million yen ($12,500) between 2006 and 2009 from a South Korean resident of Japan.

"This person has a Japanese name, and I thought he was a Japanese citizen," said Kan. "I was completely unaware that he was a foreign national."

Political funding laws prohibit lawmakers from accepting donations from foreigners to prevent domestic politics from being influenced by foreign countries.

The news brings further pressure on Kan, whose approval ratings have tumbled below 20 percent amid public dismay over gridlock in parliament. The opposition controls the upper house, making it difficult for the ruling Democratic Party of Japan to pass legislation, including the budget and related bills.

Earlier this week, Seiji Maehara resigned as foreign minister after acknowledging that he received a total of 250,000 yen ($3,000) over the past several years from a 72-year-old Korean woman who has lived most of her life in Japan.

Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Koreans, many descended from laborers brought forcibly to Japan before and during World War II, live in the country legally but without citizenship. Many were born in Japan and have taken Japanese names and citizenship.

But some Koreans have decided against becoming naturalized as a way to maintain their ethnic identity or as a form of protest against the Japanese government for its past policies.

Kan said the donor was an individual introduced by a friend several years ago. It wasn't immediately clear if the donor was born in Japan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam jails high school principal in sex scandal

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A Vietnamese high school principal was sentenced to nine years in prison for having sex with eight schoolgirls in a high-profile sex scandal, the presiding judge said Friday. Sam Duc Xuong, was convicted at Thursday's one-day trial of having sex with the students aged 13 to 18, with most encounters occurring in his office at Viet Lam High School in northern Ha Giang province, said Presiding Judge Mai Van Hung. Hung said Xuong paid the schoolgirls and used his power as a principal to force them to have sex with him in exchange for higher grades for a year until September 2009.

Indonesia denies alleged WikiLeaks claims of graft

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia was scrambling to defend President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Friday after U.S. diplomatic cables allegedly accused him of bribery, intimidation and using his position for self-enrichment. Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said at a news conference that the claims were baseless. "We find it especially unacceptable that it has been suggested as facts," he said, taking no questions and then packing up his belongings to leave.

Pakistan test-fires nuclear-capable missile

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's military says it has test-fired a short-range missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead. The army statement said the "Hataf 2" missile was successfully launched from an undisclosed location on Friday. It said the surface-to-surface missile has a range of 111 miles (180 kilometers). It is the second such test by Pakistan in the past month. Armies routinely test-fire weapons but Pakistan's program is watched closely because it is a nuclear-armed nation that has fought three wars with neighbor India since 1947.

World

Rebels retreat from Libyan oil port amid barrage

RAS LANOUF, Libya (AP)—With fierce barrages of tank and artillery fire, Moammar Gadhafi's loyalists threw rebels into a frantic retreat from a strategic oil port Thursday in a counteroffensive that reversed the opposition's advance toward the capital of Tripoli and now threatens its positions in the east.

The rout came as the U.S. director of national intelligence stressed that Gadhafi's military was stronger than it has been described and said that "in the longer term ... the regime will prevail." President Barack Obama has called on Gadhafi to step down, and the White House later distanced Obama from the director's assessment.

Hundreds of rebels in cars and trucks mounted with machine guns sped eastward on the Mediterranean coastal road in a seemingly disorganized flight from Ras Lanouf as an overwhelming force of rockets and shells pounded a hospital, mosque and other buildings in the oil complex. Doctors and staff at the hospital were hastily evacuated along with wounded from fighting from the past week.

The opposition, however, made some diplomatic gains. France became the first country to recognize the rebels' eastern-based governing council, and an ally of President Nicolas Sarkozy said his government was planning "targeted operations" to defend civilians if the international community approves. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she would meet with opposition leaders in the U.S., Egypt and Tunisia.

In Tripoli, Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam vowed to retake the eastern half of the country, which has been in opposition hands since early in the 3-week-old uprising.

"I have two words to our brothers and sisters in the east: We're coming," he told a cheering crowd of young supporters. The son depicted Libyans in the east as being held "hostage" by terrorists.

Gadhafi's government sent a text message to Tripoli residents, warning imams at mosques against allowing protests after Friday prayers. The message quoted Saudi cleric Sheik Saleh Fawzan, a member of the Saudi Supreme Scholars Council, as saying it was "unacceptable" for any imam "who incites people (or) causes disturbances of the society in any mosque."

There were demonstrations after prayers for the past two Fridays, and militiamen used tear gas and live ammunition to disperse the crowds who had gathered in mosques. There were an undetermined number of deaths after the Feb. 25 demonstrations.

The retreat was a heavy blow for the ragtag rebel forces of armed civilians and mutinous army units that only days before had confidently charged west, boasting they would march the hundreds of miles (kilometers) to "liberate" Tripoli.

There were no concrete signs of Western moves toward military assistance that the opposition has been pleading for. A rebel spokesman went beyond repeated calls for a no-fly zone to prevent Gadhafi's air force from harrying opposition fighters and said the West should carry out direct strikes against regime troops.

"We have requested for all steps to be taken to protect the Libyan people. We believe the U.N. can do that. The bombardment of mercenaries and Gadhafi troop camps are among our demands," Abdel-Hafidh Ghoga, a spokesman of the governing council, told reporters in the opposition's eastern bastion of Benghazi.

The rebel capture of Ras Lanouf a week ago had been a major victory as they pushed along Libya's long Mediterranean coastline toward Tripoli, in the far west of Libya. A day after seizing it, their forces charged farther ahead, reaching the outskirts of Sirte, Gadhafi's hometown and a stronghold in the center of the country.

They were met there by a heavy counterattack that in the past week steadily pushed them back toward Ras Lanouf, 380 miles (615 kilometers) east of Tripoli, even as the rebels tried to build supply lines to keep up momentum.

AP

A Libyan volunteer carries ammunition on the outskirts of the eastern town of Ras Lanouf, Libya, Thursday, March 10, 2011.

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi police open fire during protest

CAIRO (AP)—Saudi police opened fire Thursday to disperse a protest in the section where minority Shiites live, leaving at least one man injured, as the government toughened its efforts to prevent a wave of unrest sweeping the Arab world from reaching the kingdom. The rare violence raised concern about a crackdown ahead of planned protests after Friday prayers in different cities throughout the oil-rich kingdom. Violence there could reverberate through the world's markets because of the importance of Saudi oil exports. Discord is common between authorities and the country's Shiites, who make up 10 percent of the kingdom's 23 million citizens. They have long complained of discrimination, saying they are barred from key positions in the military and government and are not given an equal share of the country's wealth.

Scuffles between Tunisian troops, stranded workers

RAS AJDIR, Tunisia (AP)—Scuffles erupted Thursday at a transit camp for thousands of migrant workers who fled fighting in Libya and are stranded in neighboring Tunisia. Tunisian troops pushed back hundreds of angry laborers from Bangladesh who tried to force their way into a U.N. storage facility at the camp. The protesters said they are not getting enough to eat and aren't being repatriated quickly enough. At one point, troops beat demonstrators next to them before the situation was brought under control. Troops asked journalists observing the confrontations to leave the camp. In all, more than 250,000 migrant workers have fled Libya for neighboring countries, primarily Tunisia and Egypt, since an uprising against Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi erupted more than three weeks ago, migration officials said.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Philippines orders tsunami evacuation along coast

MANILA, Philippines—Philippine officials ordered the evacuation of coastal communities along the country's eastern seaboard in expectation of a tsunami following a 8.9-magnitude earthquake in Japan.

Philippine Volcanology and Seismology Institute director Renato Solidum says the first 3-foot (1-meter) high waves were expected to hit the northernmost Batanes islands by 5pm Friday.

The first wave may have entered the northern part of the Philippines although this could not have been as big, Solidum said Friday. He said the tsunami may have hit Isabela because a "loud roar" was heard although this remained unverified.

He said it looked like the waves were small because there have been no reports from the field. But he said the second and third waves may be bigger so he advised residents in the affected provinces to wait for a few more hours.

Disaster management officials in Albay province southeast of Manila say they have ordered residents to move to designated evacuation sites that are at least 15 feet (5 meters) above sea level.

Alert level 2 was raised in 19 provinces that were expected to be hit by at most one-meter tsunami waves between 5pm and 7pm. Residents in these areas were advised to go farther inland and prepare for possible evacuation, disaster officials said earlier Friday.

"Based on tsunami wave models and early tide gauge records of the tsunami in the Pacific, coastal areas in Philippine provinces fronting the Pacific Ocean are expected to experience wave heights of at most one meter," said Solidum.

One meter is a person's shoulder-level, Solidum said when asked how high the waves would be.

Solidum said the first tsunami wave would arrive between "5 p.m. and 7 p.m."

He said although the waves may not be the largest, these may continue "for hours."

He said this was why residents in the affected areas should not return home until authorities would declare that it was safe and the tsunami warning has been lifted.

Solidum also warned owners of boats in harbors in the affected provinces to secure them and move away from the water front. "Boats already at sea during this period should stay offshore in deep waters until further advised," he added.

A tsunami warning was also issued for Russia and the Mariana Islands, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said.

"An earthquake of this size has the potential to generate a destructive tsunami that can strike coastlines near the epicentre within minutes and more distant coastlines within hours," the center said in a statement.

It also put the territories of Guam, Taiwan, the Marshall Islands, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Micronesia and Hawaii under a lower tsunami watch. ***Philippine Daily Inquirer, AP, AFP***

Anew Excel has big plans for 2nd anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If you're looking for the latest in *Pinoy* fashion, visit Anew Excel International along Middle Road in Garapan to find great clothes at very reasonable prices.

"You don't need to go to the Philippines to shop for trendy clothes. You can find everything here at Anew Excel," store supervisor Liza Igrobay told *Saipan Tribune*.

Anew Excel, said Igrobay, has a plethora of branded Philippine products: Natasha, Marikina Shoe Exchange, Sundance, F/X, CD Jeans, Milk and Co., and the celebrated international brand, Avon.

Anew Excel offerings include tops, dresses, jeans, underwear, swimsuits, bags, footwear, and accessories for men, women, and kids. They even have bath and body products as well as modern gift items for all occasions.

"It's a one-stop shop, really. And we can guarantee that we will dress you up from head to foot and make you a bona fide fashionista," Igrobay said.

Anew Excel started from humble beginnings, with the store initially set up as a freelance agent for Philippine fashion products before coming to a decision to have their own store in May 2009.

Two years since Anew Excel opened its doors on Saipan, their line of products continues to expand, with new shipments coming in every two weeks and product catalogs constantly updated.

Even their clientele have considerably expanded. Anew Excel takes pride in having not just Filipino patrons but also Chamorros, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean customers.

"Aside from quality, our customers really love our items because they're unique, very stylish, and they are easy on the budget," Igrobay said.

Fortunately, Igrobay said Anew Excel has remained unscathed from the economic crunch that the whole island is experiencing right now.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Anew Excel's extensive offerings include women's tops, men's polo, swimsuits, and accessories like bags.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Located between Century Hotel and 99 Cents along Middle Road in Garapan, Anew Excel is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 9pm and Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 9pm.

"In two years, our customer base steadily increased. It helps that we have agents all over Saipan who spread the word about the store and the wide array of items we have. We're lucky and thankful," she explained.

Besides providing an extensive range of clothing choices, Anew Excel also serves as an income source for a lot of store agents under its wing.

"Those who don't have work somehow get earnings by becoming an agent. On the other hand, those who are already employed take home additional income by selling our items on a part-time basis," said Igrobay.

Even individuals who can't take the usual office job because they have to look after family members at home become agents since they control their own time and can work from home.

Since Anew Excel's second anniversary is right around the corner, Igrobay disclosed their plans to recognize the top 10 agents who have sold the most in the past year and give them exciting rewards.

"We want to acknowledge their persistence and determination to get more customers. We want them to know that their hard work and efforts will pay off," she said.

Along with the agent recognition during Anew Excel's anniversary are attractive deals like 15 to 20-percent discount on selected items, BOGO, and the buy-two-get-one-free-on-any-item promo.

"This is our way of thanking our loyal customers who have patronized our merchandise for two years and made the store very successful," said Igrobay.

Likewise, Igrobay attributes Anew Excel's success to unquestionable faith, eagerness to better the agents' lives, and unmitigated patience.

"Never lose hope despite the tough economy. Trust that things will turn around for the better," she emphasized.

Visit Anew Excel International and you'll never have to worry about shopping for clothes again. Located between 99 Cents and Century Hotel along Middle Road in Garapan, it is open from 9am to 9pm Mondays through Fridays and 1pm to 9pm on Saturdays and Sundays. For information, call 233-ANEW (2639) 287-6541 or 285-7278.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Anew Excel also carries beauty and bath products of the internationally famous Avon brand.

363 workers get free health screening

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 363 Filipino workers on Saipan availed of the quarterly free health screening organized by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office last March 6 from 8am to 12 noon at the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Susupe.

Filipinos already lined up as early as 6am to avail of the free health screening conducted by the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, the Filipino Pharmacists and Hardt Eye Clinic.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said that during the free health screening, Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Esther Kanayjorn and Australian public health worker Saulmaz Rostami also volunteered their time and expertise during the event.

"This quarterly activity was started several years ago and aims to increase the awareness of Filipinos in Saipan on diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention, eye/vision pressure correction among OFWs," he said.

Of the 363, 310 had their blood pressure and blood sugar level taken while 53 received eye-vision check-ups.

With the system implemented by the volunteer nurses during the health screening, Macaraig said there were no more queues for the blood testing by around 10:30 am "and anyone who came in at that time was accommodated almost immediately."

The Consul General disclosed that the figure for this quarter's event is down by 33 compared to the 399 Filipinos who availed of the free health screening in December 2010.

"There are no conclusive answers to why there was a slight decrease in the number of OFWs served. The decrease is only for this quarter compared to the 4th quarter of 2010 and, as such, there is no trend. Any reason that we may think of to explain the slight decrease would be speculative," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaraig expressed his appreciation to all volunteers who have rendered valuable service to Filipinos on island in every free health screening through the years.

He said the second quarter free health screening is slated for June 5, also at the FWRC from 8am to 12 noon.

Ex-Philippine generals charged with tax evasion

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' internal revenue bureau filed Thursday tax evasion cases against two retired generals, their wives and a brother-in-law who have all been linked to a multimillion-dollar corruption scandal in the military.

Allegations against retired military budget chief Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia became known in 2003 after U.S. Customs informed the Philippines that his sons had been caught trying to enter the United States with $100,000 in undeclared funds.

Others facing charges include retired Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, the wives of Garcia and Ligot and Ligot's brother-in-law. Their tax liabilities total 949.7 million pesos ($21.9 million), the bureau said.

Garcia and Ligot, who also served as a military comptroller, are among retired officers under Senate investigation for allegedly pocketing millions of dollars' worth of armed forces funds.

Corruption is an especially explosive issue in the ill-equipped and poorly paid 126,000-strong military and has sparked several insurrections by disgruntled troops in the last two decades.

President Benigno Aquino III on Thursday ordered the new armed forces chief, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr., to strengthen the military's financial management and submit a report within two months to detail reforms.

Garcia, earlier detained on plunder charges for allegedly amassing 303 million pesos ($6.9 million), was freed by a court in December after a plea bargain agreement with state prosecutors in which he pleaded guilty to a lesser offense.

The agreement caused an uproar and

Bomb blast kills 3, wounds 9 in south Philippines

JOLO, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants detonated a powerful bomb near a school on a southern Philippine island Thursday, killing at least three people and wounding nine others, officials said.

The homemade bomb went off shortly after a van of police special forces passed by, hitting instead pedestrians and motorists during rush hour on Jolo island in the predominantly Muslim province of Sulu. Police beefed up security two days ago after receiving intelligence of a possible Abu Sayyaf attack, Jolo town Mayor Hussin Amin said.

The explosion killed three men and wounded at least nine others, including two who were undergoing surgery in a hospital. The blast dug a crater on the concrete road and damaged the metal roof of a nearby school, Amin said.

"Whoever did this—and definitely they're from the Abu Sayyaf—are animals," Amin told The Associated Press by telephone from impoverished Jolo, about 610 miles (980 kilometers) south of Manila. "We've already brought over some visitors and investors and now we have this."

The al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, which has 410 fighters, has been blamed for deadly bomb attacks, kidnappings for ransom and beheadings. It was founded in the early 1990s but has been weakened through the years by U.S.-backed offensives.

Washington has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist group and blamed it for deadly attacks on American troops and civilians in the country's volatile south.

Philippine police and US troops inspect the scene of a powerful explosion near a school in the volatile island of Jolo, Thursday March 10, 2011 that killed three people and wounded nine others in southern Philippines.

AP

Wanted militant escapes Philippine troops

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine military spokesman says a Muslim militant commander wanted by Washington has escaped an assault by elite Filipino troops on a southern island.

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang said Friday that government troops halted their pursuit for Khair Mundos, his deputy and about 15 fighters after they fled toward local communities on Sacol island off Zamboanga city. Cabangbang says the military wants to avoid civilian casualties.

He says the 30 special operations troops withdrew late Thursday after recovering the militants' food and water supplies.

The mayor of Jolo township farther south meanwhile says the death toll from a bomb blast blamed on militants has risen to four after one of the wounded died overnight.

Filipino nurses abandon Libya hospital as fighting escalates

By DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—In the emergency room of Tripoli's largest hospital, Abdul Bashit, a young Filipino nurse, spent weeks tending the wounds of Libyans, with gunfire booming outside and whispers of an approaching war in the air.

The 25-year-old said he saw firsthand the horrors of the escalating conflict, heard the horrific tales of patients, including a mercenary who confessed to killing 1,000 prisoners in Moammar Gadhafi's infamous dungeons, and saw countless bodies sent to the morgue.

At the height of the hostilities, the huge ER, the size of a district hospital here, was filled with patients, mostly anti-government rebels and civilians with serious wounds, many of them gunshots to the head, Bashit recalled.

"It's hard to describe it. The ER was completely filled with patients. At the end of every day we would have 10 to 16 dead, and the cadavers would be sent straight to the morgue," he said.

When word got out that the Ionian Queen, a Greek-owned vessel chartered by the Philippine government, was making its final trip to fetch Filipinos in the Tripoli seaport, Bashit finally decided to leave the hospital and seek refuge at the Philippine embassy.

Like Bashit, dozens of Filipino nurses working in the Tripoli Medical Center, Libya's main government hospital with a 1,600-bed capacity, have abandoned their posts even under threat of being blacklisted from Arab countries and without receiving their salaries.

"Everybody was leaving and we didn't want to get left behind," said Bashit, a Fatima graduate who lives in Quezon City.

He said other Filipinos, comprising the bulk of the nursing staff of the TMC, had "gone AWOL (absent without leave)" out of fear that the Libyan crisis would turn into a full-scale civil war, even though that part of Tripoli was not as wracked by violence as the rest of the country.

"The medical director didn't prevent us from going but he said we would be blacklisted from the Arab world," he said in an interview at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. "Now, our problem is that we were not given our salaries and benefits."

He said the TMC was virtually "under the control of Filipinos" with hundreds on its staff, and that employees of other nationalities had started leaving the strife-torn country as well.

With 30 others, Bashit, who had been working at the TMC for more than a year, returned home on a Philippine-government chartered Air Pullmantur flight that landed on Thursday morning carrying the largest group of Filipinos thus far with 475.

The Filipinos were part of the contingent that boarded the Ionian Queen from the Tripoli seaport and was taken to the Greek island of Crete, from where they took the chartered flight.

As of Thursday afternoon, 8,256 Filipinos had returned from Libya on 122 flights, including special Philippine Airlines flights that went directly to Crete and fetched more than 300 Filipino evacuees.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Carmelita Dimzon said there were still about 4,000 who had left Libya and were now out of harm's way but were just waiting to be accommodated in commercial flights to Manila, under arrangements by Philippine embassy officials.

Another group of nurses, numbering about 40, had left the National Heart Center of Tajoura, a smaller hospital.

"It was peaceful in our area, but given the situation, you couldn't really tell if it was going to be peaceful one moment, and then violent the next," said one nurse, who asked not to be identified.

Joselito Lopez, 40, a quality control engineer at a cement plant in Al Nahr, said the conflict in Libya was taking a turn for the worse, as Gadhafi, who was given the code name "Kaka" by the Filipino community in Libya, clung to power.

"At the rate it is going, it's no longer going to be called Libyan unrest but Libyan war," he said.

Unlike other Filipino returnees who were critical of the Philippine government's response to the Libyan crisis, Lopez was thankful to the agencies that arranged his repatriation from Libya.

"Obviously without them, I wouldn't be here," he said, adding that his own company had not helped him and his co-workers.

Yet some Filipinos opted to stay in Libya despite the volatile situation, said Lynlee San Jose, 37, an office secretary. She noted how a few of her co-workers refused to join the group even though operations at their company had ceased.

Dimzon said that was also the case for several Filipinos who had already been evacuated from the conflict areas. "They don't want to take the flight to Manila, and we can't force them," she said.

Said San Jose: "Matira matibay (the strong will remain).You have to have a steely interior to stay there."

Actor with HIV allowed to enter Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine immigration chief said Thursday he has rescinded an order barring a movie and theater actor who is HIV positive from entering the country, calling it a mistake and violation of the government's international commitments.

Filipino-Australian actor Marcelino Cavestany said he was unaware he had been banned and shocked when immigration officers at the Manila airport stopped him upon arrival from Australia on Sunday because his name appeared on an immigration blacklist.

Cavestany told GMA television that he has been living with HIV for the past 12 years and has been an activist since 2006, using theater to promote AIDS awareness among Filipinos.

The Philippine Commission on Human Rights said Thursday it was "dismayed and deeply alarmed" by the blacklisting. It said it was "unacceptable and illegal," citing a 1998 Philippine law that guarantees HIV positive individuals freedom to travel.

"Ironically, Mr. Cavestany had intended to travel to the Philippines to help educate Filipinos on the effects of AIDS," the commission said.

The actor played a role in the 2005 movie "The Great Raid," about a World War II mission to liberate Allied prisoners from a Japanese war camp in the Philippines.

Immigration Commissioner Ronaldo Ledesma said Cavestany's inclusion on the list was a violation of the Philippines' international commitment to allow freedom of travel of persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

Ledesma said Cavestany was free to enter and leave the country, and his name was expunged from the list on Tuesday.

He said that his predecessor, Marcelino Libanan, included Cavestany on the list last year because an official of the government's Culture and Arts Commission claimed the actor had intended to spread HIV. That official was unavailable for comment Thursday.

The 2010 ban on Cavestany failed to consider that the Philippines was party to the 1994 Paris Declaration on AIDS that guarantees people with the disease freedom of travel, Ledesma said.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines is among the countries with low but rapidly increasing HIV prevalence rates. Out of a population of 94 million, 8,700 are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. Infections have jumped by 25 percent in the last decade, according to the U.N.

Remittances seen as 'People Power investment'

By ISAGANI DE LA PAZ and JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA–Now's the time to leverage a huge potential for Philippine development: remittance of overseas Filipinos, which an economist described as real People Power-inspired investment.

"As it was after the People Power uprising 25 years ago, the money of overseas Filipinos was larger than foreign direct investments at three percent of gross domestic product as against an FDI-to-GDP of less than two percent. This buffered a balance of payments problem that could have been severe that time," Alvin Ang of the University of Santo Tomas said.

Ang spoke to the OFW Journalism Consortium two days before government commemorated a protest 25 years ago that ousted then-President Ferdinand Marcos and brought to power the mother of current President Benigno Simeon Aquino III.

He noted that even if the size of OFs was still small at around 360,000 in 1986, the money they spent helped an economy described by Ibon Foundation Inc. research head Jose Enrique Africa as a hostage by a few wealthy families.

"Politically, Filipinos were emboldened to oppose the Marcos dictatorship upon years of determined struggle… Economically, people saw that a handful of local and foreign elites were prospering amid high unemployment and widespread poverty," Africa said in an electronic mail.

Ang said that had there been an absence of remittances from OFs, the BOP crisis could have been more severe because of the myriad requirements for import cover.

Ang cited a World Bank estimate of the size of savings by overseas Filipinos as cue for government to begin ways of luring these funds for investment in view of an estimated BOP deficit of three percent of GDP this year.

The estimated US$21.1 billion worth of "diaspora savings," says a February 1 World Bank brief, is "huge," and thus there is no reason why rural areas should not respond to such huge resource which their townmates based abroad have, Ang said.

"These people abroad have 'hometown empathy', so it's logical for them to invest their remittances in the places where they come from and where their families are. That's People Power economics, if I may say so."

Table 1: Preliminary estimates of diaspora savings

Countries	Diaspora stock (in million)	Diaspora savings estimated 2009 (US$ billion)	Diaspora savings as % of GDP	Diaspora savings as % of domestic saving
Mexico	11.9	46.9	5	26
China	8.3	32.0	1	1
India	11.4	31.0	2	8
The Philippines	4.3	21.1	13	84

SOURCE: WORLD BANK (1 FEBRUARY 2011)

Table 2: Percentage of OFW householdsby type of uses of their remittances

Philippines (all households within and outside of NCR)	2008		2009		2010	
	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 4
Food	96.2	95.8	94.7	95.2	97.0	96.7
Education	62.4	68.2	69.8	65.8	69.5	72.6
Medical expenses	38.5	57.6	55.2	62.2	56.7	61.1
Debt payments	31.1	48.9	48.5	49.2	48.5	49.8
Savings	14.0	35.8	40.0	44.8	50.4	43.7
Purchase of appliances/ durables	6.5	24.6	24.7	26.0	30.0	28.9
Purchase of house	6.1	16.1	11.2	10.5	15.0	11.3
Investment	1.8	4.7	5.9	7.1	5.8	5.8
Purchase of car/ motor vehicle	1.6	6.4	5.5	6.7	6.6	7.7
Others	0.7	6.3	4.5	6.5	4.5	2.6

SOURCE: BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS- CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS SURVEY (QUARTERLY)

Diaspora savings

The economist'spurview on hometown investment is in response to a "preliminary estimate" of what WB economists Dilip Ratha and Sanket Mohapatra call "diaspora savings."

Ratha and Mohapatra's estimate of diaspora savings in 2009 puts the Philippines as fourth biggest behind Mexico (US$46.9 billion), China (US$32 billion), and India (US$31 billion). These four countries are the world's biggest recipients of migrant remittances.

Based on the ratio of diaspora saving to these four countries' GDP and domestic savings, the Philippines stands out among the four countries with 13 percent of GDP and 84 percent of domestic savings [see Table 1].

If the US$21.1 billion estimate holds, the amount is bigger than the US$17.348 billion of cash remittances sent by some 8.5 million overseas Filipinos to the country in 2009.

The estimated Filipino diaspora savings is just above a third of the country's 2010 gross international reserves, which stood at US$62.371 billion, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data show.

However, in the BSP's quarterly Consumer Expectations Survey, overseas Filipino workers allocating their remittances to investment cannot catch up with the rising number of OFWs who are saving.

As of CES's end-2010 result, some 5.8 percent of OFWs set aside their remittances for investment while 43.7 percent of OFWs save their overseas earnings [see Table 2]. In contrast, remittances for debt payments reached 49.8 percent in this same survey round of the CE Survey.

Some 2.8 percent of the survey's OFW respondents within the National Capital Region use their remittances for investment, says fourth-quarter 2010 results. In contrast, 9.5 percent of respondents outside of NCR invest their remittances.

The Philippines, as a whole, has a low domestic savings rate of 15.6, says 2009 data coming from the Asian Development Bank.

The WB Migration and Remittances unit's "Migration and Development Brief" estimated diaspora savings based on data of "bilateral migrant stocks for 2010" and "assumptions about migrant incomes."

Ratha and Mohapatra's estimates sought to determine the size of savings of overseas migrants to gauge the potential market for so-called "diaspora bonds."

The Philippine government already tested such investment instrument when the Department of Finance floated "OFW bonds" last year, raising some US$346 million in funds. A fifth of those bonds were offered to retail buyers, i.e. OFWs or OFW relatives.

Given such potential, Ang thinks local governments must adjust their areas' investment climate to accommodate the investment appetite of overseas townmates.

"The question is how ready rural birthplaces of overseas Filipinos are to become hubs of migrant investment should overseas townmates decide to park their money there."

Ang's research unit at the University of Santo Tomas is soon piloting a research tool to help overseas Filipinos from two fourth-class rural municipalities to determine investment opportunities in local communities.

PAL brings home two planeloads of OFWs

MANILA, Philippines—Two repatriation flights dispatched by Philippine Airlines to Crete, Greece, arrived within hours of each other Thursday morning carrying a total of 731 Filipinos, including 15 infants.

A statement issued by PAL said airline company president Jaime J. Bautista and executive vice president Vivienne K. Tan joined government officials in welcoming 368 overseas Filipino workers onboard PR 009 which arrived at 1am and 363 passengers on PR 011, which arrived shortly before noon.

For a complete list of Filipino repatriates who boarded the two PAL flights, log on to www.palfliesyouhome.com.

PAL's two extended range Boeing 777s touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 10 hours apart after their non-stop 11-hour journey from Heraklion Airport, Crete. Both flights were manned by two sets of pilots, 13 management cabin attendants and four technical crew, the statement said.

"As the Philippine flag carrier, PAL is happy to be of service to our countrymen, especially in times of crises," Bautista told returning OFWs at the arrival area of NAIA Terminal 2.

PAL, in close coordination with the departments of Foreign Affairs and Labor and Employment, was able to deploy its two long-range B777 aircraft to repatriate OFWs after securing special permits for humanitarian reasons from different countries to overcome a prevailing ban on all Philippine carriers from flying anywhere in Europe imposed in March 2010 by the European Union.

AP

Overseas Filipinos who used to work in Libya but were forced to be repatriated due to the political crisis wait for their transport upon arrival from a chartered flight Thursday March 10, 2011, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Philippines.

Since the Libyan crisis erupted, PAL prepared immediately for the repatriation flights chartered by DOLE, securing necessary overfly and landing permits, including ground handling arrangement, while waiting for government's final instructions where and when to pick up the distressed Filipinos.

As the pioneer national flag carrier, PAL had operated on many occasions special flights to evacuate Filipinos in troubled areas, including, among others: the 2008 social unrest in Bangkok, Thailand; the 1990 first Gulf War—the largest to date encompassing 30 flights and more than 10,000 evacuated Filipinos; the 1989 war in Lebanon; and the 1980 Iran-Iraq war that displaced more than a thousand Filipinos who fled to Jordan and Kuwait. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

POEA scraps worker deployment ban to Bahrain

By JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said on Thursday it has lifted the deployment ban on Filipino workers to Bahrain, where anti-government protests have taken place in recent weeks.

"It was lifted Wednesday night after the Department of Foreign Affairs advised us that it lowered its advisory for Yemen to Alert Level 1 following their assessment. The situation there has somewhat stabilized although there is a periodic assessment. If the situation heightens again, we will just adjust the alert level," POEA chief Carlos Cao told reporters.

Cao said Alert Level 1 meant "observation stage," adding, "Deployment of overseas Filipino workers are allowed, whether new hires or rehires."

The POEA administrator said that when the deployment was stopped on February 22, 108 jobs for Bahrain were being processed, although the recruited OFWs were not deployed. He said more or less 500 jobs have been processed this week for Bahrain.

He said the government has decided to keep the deployment ban to Yemen where the political unrest has remained heightened.

The POEA is also "closely observing" Saudi Arabia and other neighboring countries where protests have happened, such as Oman and Kuwait.

"There's no alert level but we are watching them," he said.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Pinay teen is 'American Idol' finalist

"American Idol" finalist Thia Megia looks back for photographers at the "American Idol" Finalists Party in Los Angeles, Thursday, March 3, 2011. AP

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES—"Filipino pride!" This was what newly declared "American Idol" finalist Thia Megia excitedly announced when she saw us on the red carpet on Friday's finalists party at The Grove.

"It feels amazing!" she exclaimed when asked about being included in the top 13 of television's most popular talent show. The 15-year-old, the youngest finalist ever in the history of "American Idol," is as Filipino as can be.

She likes sinigang, adobo and pancit. This daughter of two immigrants from Pampanga idolizes Charice and Regine Velasquez. She has performed in a concert featuring the latter.

Thia thanked Filipinos for supporting and voting for her. The petite singer with the huge talent also expressed gratitude to her followers within the United States and around the world.

'Tone perfect'

Born in Redwood City, California, Thia said that she could understand a bit of Tagalog and Kapampangan. She is the youngest offspring of Loreto and Cynthia Megia, both from Pampanga.

She may be the "baby" in the group of newly minted AI finalists, but she was poised, and fielded journalists' questions with ease and confidence. Wearing a colorful sweater, cut-off denim shorts and boots, Thia cut a lovely, charming figure on the red carpet.

She also wowed the audience and viewers worldwide with her version of "Out Here On My Own" on Wednesday's show, prompting judge Randy Jackson to rave that her tone was perfect throughout the song.

Thia said she also admires Jasmine Trias, the Filipino-American who also reached the AI finalists' circle a few years ago.

Of Charice, Thia said she likes her because she is "humble and has a great voice." Another favorite of hers is Adele, the Grammy-winning British soul singer.

Thia's face lit up when asked about the Philippines. She said she has been to the country twice, on vacation.

Dad trembling

Loreto, Thia's dad, smiled as he watched her daughter do the media line. "Nanginginig ako (I was trembling)," he revealed when we asked how he was during the announcement earlier of the finalists by host Ryan Seacrest.

"I'm proud of her," Loreto said of her daughter, whom he recalled to have been singing with gusto as early as age 4.

California to Milwaukee

Loreto, who immigrated to the United States in 1968, believes that Thia got her singing talent from her uncles from both sides of the family.

He disclosed that Thia couldn't wait for the AI tryouts in California so she auditioned in Milwaukee. He added that Thia has been homeschooled for the past three years.

Thia herself chooses the songs that she performs each week on the popular TV show, said Loreto. Since Thia is a minor, her parents take turns staying with her in the house where the contestants live while the show is running.

As Thia did the red carpet media line, so did AI judges J Lo and Steven Tyler. J Lo's husband, singer Marc Anthony, stayed on the sidelines, chatting with fellow guests at the tented party held on the rooftop parking structure of The Grove, a popular LA shopping destination near the studio where AI is taped.

Many guests followed J Lo when she joined Marc after her interviews. At least eight burly bodyguards stood around the popular couple, who obliged requests by guests for photos.

As the party winded down, and as Thia fielded her last media question for the night, she asked us to relay this message to her supporters: "Salamat!" Blowing a kiss, she exclaimed, "Mahal ko kayo!"

PH blogger stirs a fashion revolution

By CECIL MORELLA
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MANILA, Philippines—Philippine blogger Bryan Yambao went from reading his mother's magazines to the front rows of the world's top catwalks at warp speed, as the Internet demolishes the exclusive barriers of high fashion.

Supermodel-thin and fond of wearing colorful hats, fur-collared cardigans and handbags, the 24-year-old is now an industry heavyweight who hangs out with the likes of supermodel Naomi Campbell and designer Marc Jacobs.

"If you ask me, all of my dreams have already come true. What else can you ask for," Yambao said in a speech at an independent fashion bloggers' conference in New York late last year.

Yambao's vehicle for fashion stardom is his online journal at www.bryanboy.com, which delivers fresh, irreverent, and witty critiques of the world's newest trends on expensive clothing and accessories.

The site attracts more than 200,000 unique visitor hits a day, while nearly 52,000 people follow his Twitter stream, giving the jet-setting former web designer from Manila awesome powers to thrash or promote a product.

The blog is also studded with money-spinning ads that would be the envy of fashion magazines that have only a small fraction of his readership.

Recent posts told of his labors to buy Prada's red men's wingtips ("It's the shoe of the season, no doubt") and how Hollywood stars Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher stole the thunder from fashion figures at a Sao Paulo show.

"I've heard several rumors that they were paid about half a million dollars to be here. Celebrities. They always f--- up the whole experience," Yambao ranted.

Drawing heavily on the Paris Hilton playbook, the blog is also as much a homage to the author as style, with photos of him in outrageous, gender-bending outfits.

"Shower me with attention and inflate my ego. Email photos of your love and I'll add you to my ever-growing collection. Be creative! Be spontaneous!" he wrote.

The biggest fashion labels indeed do work super hard to inflate his ego, as evidenced by one of his latest posts for the current fashion week in Paris.

"I'm trying to enjoy the calm before my set of shows," he wrote.

"My invites are starting to pour in. So far I'm confirmed at Isabel Marant, Mugler, Balmain, AF Vandevorst, Gareth Pugh, Rochas, Damir Doma, Chanel, etc. Can't wait to receive more of my invitations!"

The traditional media also love him.

"Bringing androgyny and attitude to the blogosphere since 2004, Bryanboy's reflections on fashion never fail to entertain," Elle magazine wrote, in an excerpt posted in his blog.

"With his sharp wit and cheeky style choices, Manila-based blogger Bryanboy is on the brink of international stardom," Teen Vogue wrote.

Yambao's extraordinary online career began with him blogging about his foreign travels in 2004. But he had always been drawn to fashion, even as a 10-year-old studying at a strict Manila Catholic school.

"I would steal my mum's magazines and read them at school," Yambao said in his New York speech last year. Yambao initially agreed to be interviewed by AFP but then did not reply to e-mailed questions.

From a puny readership of his friends and family, the blog took off in 2007 after his posts caught the eye of Jacobs, the influential American creative director of French design house Louis Vuitton.

"I discovered this sort of satirical little film that Bryanboy had done of me, and I was really amused by it. I started to look at the blog and I thought, this guy is so into fashion," Jacobs said in a clip posted on Yambao's site.

Jacobs named an ostrich leather tote bag, BB, on his own 2008 fall collection, in the Filipino blogger's honour.

"Love your passion for fashion," the designer gushes in a post on Yambao's site. "After all, where would designers be without enthusiasm like yours?"

In 2009 Dolce and Gabbana put Yambao and other top bloggers on the front row at the Milan fashion week, beside traditional industry arbiters such as Vogue's Anna Wintour and Suzy Menkes of the International Herald Tribune.

Menkes, the doyenne of the fashion press, said bloggers had democratized an industry that had long been used to having everything dictated from the top down by the fashion houses.

"And then along comes Twitter and all of a sudden somebody walks out of a, say, Louis Vuitton show and says, 'That show sucked. I hated it,'" she said in an interview posted online from last year's Berlin's fashion trade show.

"But that can go viral and other people can answer... and suddenly you're faced with three million people saying negative things. It's pretty terrifying for these brand managers."

Yambao, who had had his Facebook account fill up with a maximum 5,000 friends a long time ago, appears to revel in the irony of a Third-World blogger dictating to the rich what to wear.

"It did happen to me, you know, somebody from the boonies, in the Philippines," he said in his New York speech.

One of Yambao's friends from the Philippines, fashion reporter and blogger Ingrid Go-Chua, said his spectacular career in breaking through one of the world's most exclusive industries was an inspiration across Asia.

"A lot of Asian people look up to him. He's like a beacon of a person. In the Third World, you never thought that dreams would come true but he made them come true. He's put the Philippines on the map," she told AFP.

AFP-YONHAP NEWS
Young Philippine blogger Bryan Yambao posing for a photo during fashion week in Paris.

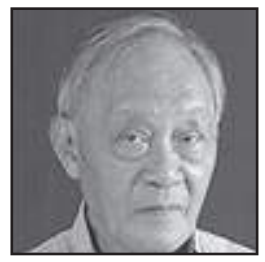
Maharlika – Opinyon

Gutierrez on the dock

Merceditas Gutierrez is the first female ombudsman in the Philippines. She is the first non-elected official to face impeachment action in Congress in recent times. She is the first official appointed by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to senior Cabinet level positions with judicial or quasi-judicial functions to face impeachment proceedings.

She is also the first important hold-over from the Arroyo administration to be held accountable by the reformist government of President Benigno Aquino III as part of his inauguration pledge to give the country "good governance." An impeachment case has been initiated in the House of Representatives to make Gutierrez accountable for impeachable acts constituting "betrayal of public trust," in the highest political tribunals in the land: the House of Representatives and the Senate. She is not facing trial for criminal offenses in a court of justice.

In these circumstances, the impeachment proceedings initiated against her cannot but be politicized—although procedures in Congress, first in the House to vote to impeach her and prepare the articles of impeachment, and then in the Senate, which sits as a tribunal to determine whether she is guilty or innocent of the charges, follow the rules of court in criminal trial. In this sense, the misfortune of Gutierrez is that she has become the center of the controversy over whether she performed her constitutional duties as the principal prosecutor of wrongdoing of the Arroyo administration or whether she acted to cover up these alleged venalities. In this transition from the Arroyo to the Aquino administration, the Gutierrez impeachment action has become a test case of the political will of the administration to purge the government of corruption by removing Arroyo officials embedded in independent constitutional bodies who could block its campaign against corruption.



Analysis
By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

We are not expecting a political circus in the Gutierrez case like we had in the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada in the Senate. And yet the Gutierrez case is important in that it puts on trial the entire system of holding officials accountable to the people and its flaws. It highlights the issue of whether our impeachment process is capable of conducting a fair trial in the context of the undeniable condition that the entire impeachment proceedings—from the House to the Senate—are dominated by politicians in both the Executive and Legislative Departments and are conducted by a totally politicized body, Congress. The fate of Gutierrez in these processes is now less important than the issue of the capacity of institutional and constitutional bodies to give substance to the concepts of fair play and justice, and due process, to which any citizen of this republic is entitled.

There is danger that the impeachment proceedings could degenerate into a witch-hunt for people who are on the wrong side of the political divide to divert public attention from the growing disaffection with the current government over its inability to deliver results in its social and economic programs.

In some ways, the Gutierrez case has become an extended stage on which the Arroyo administration is also on trial. It will be subjected to further bashing, with Gutierrez taking the beating.

There is no doubt that the administration's allies in the House have the numbers to ram through the plenary the articles of impeachment framed by the House committee on justice, which has decided that there is "probable cause" to dismiss Gutierrez for "betrayal of public trust" and "culpable violation of the Constitution"—omnibus charges whose specifications are contained in the consolidated two complaints.

In the complaint, Gutierrez is accused of having an "unconscionably low" conviction rate in cases, including the graft charges filed against Arroyo and her husband on their involvement in the $329-million NBN-ZTE deal, and the suspicious death of Navy Ensign Philip Pestaño. She is also accused of alleged inaction on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, the "euro generals" scandal, and the Mega Pacific eSolutions contract with the Commission on Elections that was voided by the Supreme Court.

The vote in the committee on justice to send the complaints to the plenary for debate prior to their transmittal to the Senate for trial came after President Aquino put pressure on the House majority to speed up the impeachment process in Congress. In a meeting with Liberal Party members of the House last Tuesday, the President asked them to support the impeachment move. He reminded them of their mandate as legislators to serve as fiscals in the impeachment process and told them to determine if there was probable cause.

Justifying the President's intervention, Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said Mr. Aquino did not violate the separation of powers between the Executive and Congress. He said the President asserted his "moral leadership in determining the course for good governance." Lacierda said the intervention was "part of the call for good governance." The President's message to the LP congressmen was "simple" and that was "we were voted by the people and our platform is 'Tuwid na daan'."

Lacierda didn't have to say all that nonsense. It was straightforward enough to say that the President asserted his leadership as party leader and was calling the shots. The President didn't have to explain that.

EDITORIAL

Hypocrisy Inc.

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The elaborate hand-wringing in the House of Representatives by political allies of Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, over the alleged politicization of the impeachment process and the supposed rush to judgment against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, is not unexpected. All the same, it is deeply offensive to Filipinos who remember how the very same politicians, then in the majority, politicized the impeachment process in 2005 and in succeeding years, in a rush to defend then President Arroyo.

In other words, the hand-wringing—or in the case of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, he of "prejudicial questions" notoriety, the resort to fustian rhetoric—is an exercise in hypocrisy.

Essentially, in 2005 (and again in 2006 and 2007), the pro-Arroyo coalition in the House conducted itself according to the political theory of impeachment: In the end, the process is only a numbers game. If a pattern of markedly weak, designed-to-fail first impeachment complaints happened to characterize the process, what of it? The majority voted to privilege these defective complaints over other, stronger cases anyway. If the Constitution allows impeachment complaints to be consolidated into one impeachment proceeding (the substance of the recent Supreme Court decisions rejecting Gutierrez's petition to stop the impeachment process), what of it? The majority in the time of Arroyo voted against consolidation anyway. If the majority at the time gamed the system against the opposition, taunting it to make its case in the proper forum and then in the next breath denying it that very forum, what of it? The majority voted anyway—and in their view, that did not only make their conduct legal, that made it right.

Arroyo's allies in the House—and taking her cue from them, Gutierrez herself—now allege partisanship or worse motives to committee chair Niel Tupas Jr. and other members of the majority in the committee.

At least Lagman is intellectually honest enough to recognize that the Aquino administration and many of its allies in Congress ran last year on an anti-corruption campaign. As the justice committee weighed probable cause in the case against Gutierrez the other day, Lagman intoned: "The critical imperativeness of due process must not be sacrificed to imprudent haste or partisan importuning. Impeachment of a respondent at all costs is not the raison d'être for redeeming a campaign promise."

This is fancy talk, but it is really nothing more than political hypocrisy twice over.

In the first place, "imprudent haste or partisan importuning" best characterizes the conduct of the Arroyo majority in 2005 to 2007, when it ran roughshod over the impeachment process in order to protect her. Who is Lagman, whose set of prejudicial questions successfully raised Palace objectives over public interest, to complain about the flexing of political muscle? Secondly, the Tupas committee has handled the Gutierrez cases with far greater attention to the quasi-judicial responsibilities of Congress than the Arroyo majority in 2005 to 2007 ever did.

Impeachment, that "terrible sword" of constitutional law, is both a political and a quasi-judicial process. It is political because it is a responsibility entrusted to a political branch of government; it is quasi-judicial (that is to say, it follows legal procedures) because it is based on rules of court, of procedure, of evidence. The impeachment of Merceditas Gutierrez, while indisputably a political act, has followed stringent legal standards—which is more than what we can say for the impeachment cases Lagman et al. handled with murderous efficiency.

Rizal's lotto windfall

Many of us dream about hitting the SuperLotto some day, and we enjoy thinking of ways to spend a fund that should, if prudently invested, last 10 lifetimes. However, many of us never hit the jackpot, not for want of luck, but because we never buy a lotto ticket. Dreams are only fulfilled with action.

Someone should study what really happens to lotto winners. I have a suspicion that winning actually results in misfortune for those who are unprepared for the windfall, especially when they are hunted down by long lost relatives and other low-life hoping for *balato*. Then there is crazy spending, like the man who bought a van when he didn't even have a house and lot to park it in. His good fortune led to his murder.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Rizal is someone we look up to as an example of good citizenship and nationalism, but his life is a mine of practical advice too. When he was exiled to Dapitan in 1892, he could have been broken by depression and boredom. Here was a man who knew London, Paris, and Madrid like the back of his palm thrust in a town that, then as now, is best described as the end of the universe. Rizal made good of a bad situation, always seeking the silver lining in a dark cloud.

As a student on a tight allowance in Madrid, he regularly bought one-tenth of a lotto ticket. He didn't win anything, but this shows he believed in luck. His sisters were also into lottery, and their letters often contained lists of lucky random numbers to bet on.

Rizal gambled a bit more than usual in Dapitan: he bought one-third of a lotto ticket and forgot about it. Some time later the mail boat "Butuan" arrived bedecked with flags. Ricardo Carnicero, governor of Dapitan, assumed a dignitary was on-board, rounded up the town band and rushed to shore in his best suit. Good news was on board: Rizal, Carnicero and an unidentified Spaniard had won the second prize jackpot of P20,000.

If Rizal were a free man in Calamba or elsewhere his P6,600 share of the jackpot would have been spent in a different way, but considered a dangerous subversive in exile, he spent half of the money acquiring, titling, and developing a neglected piece of seaside property. The other half, he sent to his father.

Rizal's Dapitan letters have little or no political or nationalistic content. They are about how he developed both his land and the community.

What most people do not know is that Rizal was a licensed land surveyor, who grew up in a home built from the earnings of tilling sugar land leased from the Dominicans and his mother's many businesses.

Rizal could have spent the lotto earnings on consumables, or drowned his sorrows in hashish, which he admitted trying out at 18 when he was a medical student in Manila. Yet he engaged in the business of abaca, opened a little store, ran a school, tended fruit trees, and treated patients whether they could pay or not. He described life in a letter to Blumentritt in 1893:

"I am going to tell you how we live here. I have a square house, another hexagonal, and another octagonal—all made of bamboo, wood and nipa. In the square one my mother, my sister Trinidad, a nephew, and I live. In the octagonal my boys live—some boys whom I teach arithmetic, Spanish, and English—and now and then a patient who has been operated on. In the hexagonal are my chickens. From my house, I hear the murmur of a crystalline rivulet that comes from the high rocks. I see the beach, the sea where I have two small crafts—two canoes or *barotos*, as they call them here. I have many fruit trees—mangoes, lanzones, guayabano, baluno, nangka, etc. I have rabbits, dogs, cats, etc. I get up early—at 5:00. I visit my fields, feed the chickens, wake up my folks, and start them moving. At 7:30 we take breakfast of tea, pastry, cheese, sweets, etc. Afterwards I treat my poor patients who come to my estate. I dress and go to town in my *baroto*. I treat the people there and I return at 12:00 and take lunch. Afterwards I teach the boys until 4:00 and spend the rest of the afternoon farming. I spend the evening reading and studying."

He describes the property further as: "a piece of land beside a river that has great resemblance to the Calamba River, with the only difference that this here is wider and its stream is more abundant and crystalline. How it has reminded me of Calamba! My land is half an hour from the sea. The place is very poetic and very picturesque, better than the Ilaya River, without comparison. At some points it is wide like the Pasig River and clear like the Pansol, almost, and like this it has crocodiles in some parts. There are plenty of dalag (mudfish) and pakó (ferns) and little round stones. Hydraulic machines can be installed.

"My land has 6,000 abaca plants. My land is beautiful; it is in the interior, far from the sea, about a half-hour's walk. It is in a very picturesque place. The land is very fertile. In addition to the abaca plantation there is land for planting two cavans of corn. Little by little we can buy the remaining lands near mine."

Rizal after winning, started to buy whole lotto tickets, but never struck gold again. Nevertheless he saw opportunity in "worthless" land, bought it cheap and developed it. In the end, Rizal's Talisay estate, today a historical shrine and nature preserve, was well worth another lotto jackpot.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.

Samu't Sari

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MODEL YOUTH

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), left, reads a copy of a House resolution commending cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero for serving as an inspiration to the community by securing wheelchairs, books, toys, clothing, and other donated items for distribution to patients and children. Also in photo are Guerrero's parents and brother and other House of Representatives members.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SUPER CPR

An American Red Cross instructor teaches participants the correct way of doing CPR during its Super CPR workshop held Saturday last week at the Multi-Purpose Center in Sususpe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EXCESS LAND RETURNED

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo prepares to sign the proclamation that returns 450 acres of excess federal property back to the Government of Guam at the start of the 2011 Plenary Session of the President's Interagency Group on Insular Areas at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 28, 2011. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roger Natsuhara and General Services Administration chief of staff Michael Robertson presented Calvo with the deed to the 450 acres in the South Finegayan property, which constitutes the remaining available properties identified in Public Law 103-339, the Guam Excess Lands Act.

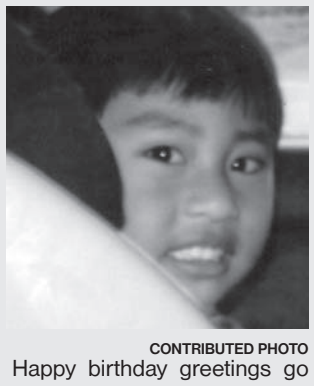
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy third birthday to Ayanna Matsumoto, who is celebrating her special day today, March 12, 2011, and belated happy second birthday to Naomi Matsumoto, who celebrated hers on March 8, 2011! May you have many more blessings and many, many more birthdays to come! God bless and we love you! Greetings come from your family and relatives.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 41st birthday to Bernardo Montano, who is celebrating his birthday today, March 12,2011! Greetings come from your sister, Jane Montano, and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Joseph Paraiso, who is celebrating his 4th birthday today, March 12, 2011! We wish you all the best. We love you! Greetings come from Tita Osang and Tito Onching.

TREES AFLAME

Far left, tourists pass by a flame tree in full bloom at the American Memorial Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SESSION BREAK

Left, House lawmakers confer with a Legislative Bureau staff during a break in the session on March 2, 2011.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

YoungStyle

Could gene tests tell if kids can be sports stars?

By LINDSEY TANNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—Was your kid born to be an elite athlete? Marketers of genetic tests claim the answer is in mail-order kits costing less than $200.

Some customers say the test results help them steer their children to appropriate sports. But skeptical doctors and ethicists say the tests are putting profit before science and have a much greater price tag—potentially robbing perfectly capable youngsters of a chance to enjoy activities of their choice.

"In the `winning is everything' sports culture, societal pressure to use these tests in children may increasingly present a challenge to unsuspecting physicians," according to a commentary in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Scientists have identified several genes that may play a role in determining strength, speed and other aspects of athletic performance. But there are likely hundreds more, plus many other traits and experiences that help determine athletic ability, said Dr. Alison Brooks, a pediatrician and sports medicine specialist at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Brooks and University of Michigan physician Dr. Beth Tarini wrote the commentary to raise awareness about the issue.

AP

In this March 4, 20011 photo, Elizabeth Marston practices soccer at a school in Bountiful, Utah.

A handful of companies are selling these tests online. In some cases, the tests screen for genes that are common even among non-athletes. As science advances, Brooks said, "My guess is we're going to see more of this, not less."

Bradley Marston of Bountiful, Utah, bought a test online a year ago for his daughter Elizabeth, then 9.

She's "a very talented soccer player," and Marston wanted to know if she had a variation of a gene called ACTN3, which influences production of a protein involved in certain muscle activity.

One form of the gene has been linked with explosive bursts of strength needed for activities such as sprinting and weight lifting.

The ACTN3 test sold by Atlas Sports Genetics was developed by Genetic Technologies Limited, an Australian firm. Atlas' $169 kit consists of two swabs to scrape cells from the inside of the cheek. Customers return the used swabs to the Boulder, Colo., company and receive an analysis several days later.

ON THE NET
JAMA: http://jama.ama-assn.org

Elizabeth Marston's test showed she has a sprinting-related gene form—results her father hopes will help her get into elite sports programs or win a sports scholarship to college.

Marston said he ordered the test partly out of curiosity, but approached it cautiously and talked with Elizabeth to make sure she could handle it.

"She told me, `Well, Daddy, I just have to try harder'" if the results came back negative, Marston said.

Elizabeth has loved soccer since age 4 and said she's happy with the results.

But even at age 10, she knows it will take more than genes to reach her goal of playing in the Olympics.

"I think I would have to train hard," she said.

Nat Carruthers, operations president for Atlas Sports Genetics, says the company has sold several hundred test kits since it began marketing them in 2008.

"Our goal is to help people become the athlete they were born to be," not to exclude kids from certain sports, Carruthers said.

He said critics have misrepresented the test "to sound like we're telling parents what their kid should do and how good their kid will be. That's not at all our claim or desire," he said.

CyGene Laboratories, based in Coral Springs, Fla., sold a similar $100 swab test online for different sports-related genes until last fall, but it has suspended operations.

CyGene also sold kits online advertised as testing for human diseases, but Mark Munzer, the company's former president, said that industry is reeling from a Food and Drug Administration crackdown last year on efforts to sell disease-related gene tests in retail pharmacies.

The FDA scheduled a hearing on Tuesday to receive feedback from an expert panel on how the agency should be regulating direct-to-consumer genetic tests that make medical claims. Marketers of sports gene tests that don't make medical claims aren't FDA regulated.

University of Maryland researcher Stephen Roth, a specialist in exercise physiology and genetics who has studied the ACTN3 gene, said the science of how genes influence athletic ability "is in its infancy" and that marketers' claims are based on "gross assumptions."

Roth said roughly 80 percent of people worldwide have the ACTN3 gene that has been linked with explosive force. The fact that few of them become elite athletes underscores that it takes more than genes to make a sports star.

Also, about 20 percent of people have a gene variation that inhibits production of the protein involved in explosive force. That doesn't mean they can't excel in sports, Roth said, citing a Spanish long jumper who made it to the Olympics despite lacking that protein.

Dr. Lainie Friedman Ross, a medical ethicist and pediatrician at the University of Chicago, said the tests raise ethical questions when used in children because they're too young to understand the possible ramifications and to give adequate consent.

"This is recreational genetics with a real serious potential for harm," Ross said. "People are going to think, `If my kid has this, I'm going to have to push real hard. If my kid doesn't have it, I'm going to give up before I start," she said. Instead, Ross said, parents should "let kids follow their dreams."

Kaspar the friendly robot helps autistic kids

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

STEVENAGE, England (AP)—Eden Sawczenko used to recoil when other little girls held her hand and turned stiff when they hugged her. This year, the 4-year-old autistic girl began playing with a robot that teaches about emotions and physical contact—and now she hugs everyone.

"She's a lot more affectionate with her friends now and will even initiate the embrace," said Claire Sawczenko, Eden's mother.

The girl attends a pre-school for autistic children in Stevenage, north of London, where researchers bring in a human-looking, child-sized robot once a week for a supervised session. The children, whose autism ranges from mild to severe, play with the robot for up to 10 minutes alongside a scientist who controls the robot with a remote control.

The robot, named Kaspar, is programmed to do things like smile, frown, laugh, blink and wave his arms. He has shaggy black hair, a baseball cap, a few wires protruding from his neck, and striped red socks. He was built by scientists at the University of Hertfordshire at a cost of about 1,300 pounds (US$2,118).

There are several versions of Kaspar, including one advanced enough to play Nintendo Wii. The robot's still in the experimental stage, and researchers hope he could be mass-produced one day for a few hundred dollars.

"Children with autism don't react well to people because they don't understand facial expressions," said Ben Robins, a senior research fellow in computer science at the University of Hertfordshire who specializes in working with autistic children.

"Robots are much safer for them because there's less for them to interpret and they are very predictable."

There are similar projects in Canada, Japan and the U.S., but the British one is the most advanced according to other European robot researchers not connected with the project.

ON THE NET
http://www.roboskin.eu/
http://kaspar.feis.herts.ac.uk/

Scientists at the University of Hertfordshire first began using a version of Kaspar in 2005. The newest model is covered in silicone patches that feel like skin to help children become more comfortable with touching people. So far, almost 300 kids in Britain with autism, a disorder that affects development of social interaction and communication, have played with a Kaspar robot as part of scientific research.

AP

In this March 4, 20011 photo, Elizabeth Marston practices soccer at a school in Bountiful, Utah.

The robot has only a handful of tricks, like saying "Hello, my name is Kaspar. Let's play together," laughing when his sides or feet are touched, raising his arms up and down, or hiding his face with his hands and crying out "Ouch. This hurts," when he's slapped too hard.

But that is enough to keep autistic children enthralled. Ronnie Arloff, 4, was so eager to see Kaspar he banged on the door and shouted his name. Arloff opened his arms wide just like the robot. He also recognized facial expressions, saying "happy" when Kaspar was smiling and "sad" when he frowned.

Nan Cannon-Jones, an autism consultant at the school, said the robot helps children understand emotions and language. "After Kaspar says 'haha' when he's tickled, the children learn that's what laughing is," she said. Two of the 12 to 17 kids who attend the pre-school have refused to play with Kaspar outright.

The school also uses speech and music therapy. "You can't teach children to speak or play using a robot, but it helps reinforce what we're teaching them already, like how to share and be nice to people," Cannon-Jones said.

Experts not linked to the project said it was a promising idea.

"Autistic children like things that are made up of different parts, like a robot, so they may process what the robot does more easily than a real person," said Dr. Abigael San, a childhood clinical psychologist in London and spokeswoman for the British Psychological Society.

She thought it was possible that skills children learned with the robot at the pre-school could be transferred to their homes or the playground. But San warned that experts and parents shouldn't rely on robots too much. "We don't want children with autism to get too used to playing with robots," she said. "Ultimately, they need to be able to relate to other people."

Kerstin Dautenhahn, the senior researcher at the University of Hertfordshire behind the Kaspar project, said she and colleagues don't have enough data to know if playing with Kaspar has sped up social skills in autistic children. They have published case studies describing improvements in up to a dozen children but no long-term trials.

Researchers say prospects for a comprehensive study depend on funding and teacher-parent participation, since they would have to track the kids for years—but they would like to carry one out.

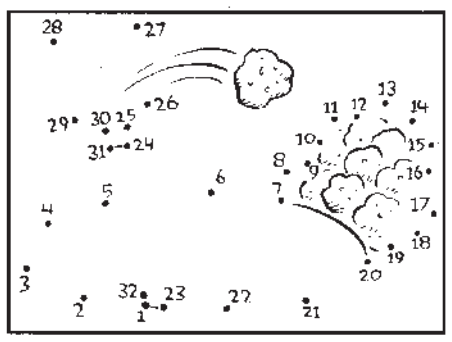
She said it might also be possible to modify Kaspar to help children with other developmental problems, like Down syndrome.

Uta Frith, an emeritus professor of cognitive development at University College London, said the robot was valuable in providing children with social interactions, but doubted a machine was necessary.

"What's important for autistic kids is that they learn how to play imaginatively," she said. "And for that, you could use cooking pots or a shoe box."

But Eden Sawczenko's mom says Kaspar's weekly visits seem to be helping.

"Before, Eden would make a smiley face no matter what emotion you asked her to show," she said. "But now she is starting to put the right emotion with the right face. That's really nice to see."



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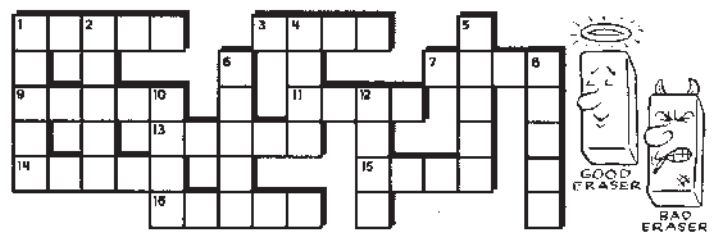
CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what grows bigger the more you take away from it.

Answer: A hole in the ground.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FILL-IN PUZZLE



Illustrated by David Coulson

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 17 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy!

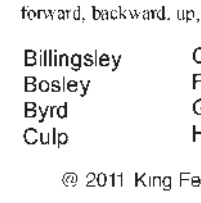
AGES	BAKED	ICED
ACHED	BENCH	KEEPS
AFAR	DOMED	OWNER
AGATE	DREAM	SALON
BADE	EBBS	SODA
BADGE	FAIR	

Answers: (Across) 1. Badge, 3. Afar, 7. Ages, 9. Keeps, 11. Iced, 13. Owner, 14. Domed, 15. Bade, 16. Ached, (Down) 1. Baked, 2. Dream, 4. Fair, 5. Agate, 6. Bench, 8. Salon, 10. Soda, 12. Ebbs.

TRY MOWING DOWN THIS PUZZLE! Replace the letters in this AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Can you get a higher total than we did?

Our Answer: S=1, E=9, D=0, R=2, A=5, I=8, N=6, L=4, W=7. (1990 + 2586 = 4576).

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read top to bottom along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Coax, coat, cool, coop, clot, clop, clap, clad.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century German-American poet, novelist and short-story writer Charles Bukowski who made the following observation: "The difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is that in a democracy you vote first and take orders later; in a dictatorship you don't have to waste your time voting."

■ In the 18 months that the Pony Express operated, carrying mail across the Wild West and its myriad hazards and dangers, only one pouch of mail was lost.

■ It takes approximately 10 months for a Las Vegas slot machine to pay for itself.

■ Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator and leader of that country's National Fascist Party, grew up poor with a blacksmith father who, history indicates, spent most of his meager earnings on his mistress. When Benito was 27 years old, he met a 16-year-old girl named Rachele Guidi—who was the daughter of that same mistress and her deceased husband. Rachele eventually became Mussolini's second wife.

■ At one time, some churches banned the playing of Wagner's "The Bridal Chorus," also known as "Here Comes the Bride," because the music was considered to be sexy and vulgar.

■ You might not be surprised to learn that editor, lexicographer and textbook pioneer Noah Webster lobbied Congress to make his plan for simplified spelling the law of the land. Had he been successful, the United States would have been the only country in which incorrect spelling would be legally punishable.

■ Many people claim that Worcestershire sauce does an excellent job of cleaning copper and brass.

■ In Chicago, if you have a hatpin hidden under a lapel, you are considered to be carrying a concealed weapon

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity over humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed, and well-fed."—Herman Melville

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MAGIC MAZE ● PASSED AWAY IN 2010

R	G	D	Y	A	X	U	R	O	L	J	G	D	A	X
V	S	P	N	E	K	I	F	C	A	X	V	O	S	Q
O	L	I	N	K	L	E	T	T	E	R	L	L	J	H
E	C	A	Y	E	L	S	O	B	U	S	B	X	V	R
T	R	P	N	L	S	J	G	H	E	Y	H	F	D	E
B	Y	X	V	S	T	L	T	N	R	E	K	R	A	P
R	P	O	M	M	E	R	E	D	I	T	H	E	K	P
I	G	G	E	D	A	V	B	I	Z	L	P	H	X	O
W	U	I	T	C	R	Q	A	A	N	E	L	S	O	H
N	L	J	A	I	S	I	T	R	U	C	U	I	G	F
D	C	M	A	H	Y	X	W	V	G	T	C	F	B	S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Billingsley	Curtis	Hopper	Nielsen
Bosley	Fisher	Linkletter	Olsen
Byrd	Graves	MacArthur	Parker
Culp	Haig	Meredith	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		−		22
−		−		÷	
	×		+		16
×		×		+	
	+		+		17
21		18		2	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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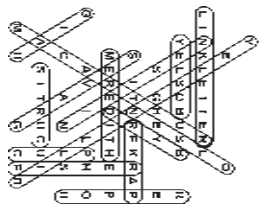
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	2		18		21
17	1	+	9	+	7
	+		×		×
16	8	+	4	×	2
	÷		−		−
22	8	−	6	×	5

Cat intimidates owner's grandson

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: You recently advised an owner whose cat ran and hid when company arrived not to worry unless it acted "very strange, such as hissing at familiar people, hiding for hours or not eating." Well, our 6-year-old cat, "Clyde," hides often when strangers arrive, sometimes for hours. But the weirdest thing is that he hisses and glares at our 3-year-old grandson, and he has done this since Day One. Our grandson is showing signs of being afraid of him and tries to stay as far away as possible. Can anything be done to help this relationship? Our grandson has a cat of his own that he gets along great with. Do you think Clyde was abused as a young kitten? We adopted him from a shelter.—Susan J., via e-mail

DEAR SUSAN: It's difficult to tell what a pet's past life was like when adopting from a shelter. Clyde may or may not have been abused as a young kitten, or he simply may not have been around humans much at all, which also can cause socialization problems.

My late great buddy Dodge was born to a barn cat and adopted at about 6 months of age. He was extremely skittish around humans, and it was several months before I could even pet him. While he eventually became a near-typical housecat, he remained very selective about who could approach him, and he always hid when new humans showed up. Sudden changes in his environment tended to be very stressful for Dodge, along with unpredictable people (and 3-year-olds can be quite unpredictable!).

My advice is to keep Clyde and your grandson separated for now, until your grandson has grown a bit. There's a chance they will never be friends, but it's something that you can't force on Clyde or your grandson. Meantime, continue to provide a supportive, encouraging environment for your cat.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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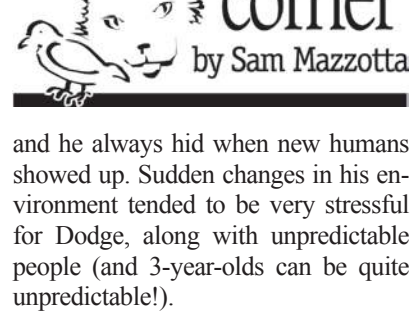
Accordion birthday card in a box



Is there a birthday in your house? Make it special with this personalized "accordion card in a box" that spills out highlights of each year of the birthday boy or girl's life.

The fun starts with rooting around the house for a small cardboard gift box. (Or, use a clean plastic deli or margarine tub with a lid that snaps on top.) Then, choose a character or theme to decorate the outside of the box. For example, if son Nick is turning 10, you might create a "Jack and the Beanstalk"-style card in a box and call it "Nick and the Beanstalk."

Here's how:

1. Paint the outside of the box green. Cut out a leaf shape to cover the lid using craft foam or colored paper. Draw details with markers and glue the leaf on top of the lid. Now create a stand-up figure with craft foam to look like the birthday child and glue it on the leaf using a glue gun. You might wish to glue a photo of the child's face onto the head of the figure.

2. Now comes the secret and rather clever part of your beanstalk greeting—the leaves and the stem! For the stem, cut a strip of construction paper 3/4 inch wide and about 24 inches long (tape a couple of lengths together if your paper isn't long enough). Fold the paper accordion-style to fit perfectly inside the box (each fold should be the dimension of the base of the box). Glue the top accordion fold to the inside of the lid, and glue the bottom fold to the inside base of the box. Let dry.

3. Cut out a leaf shape for each year of the child's life from construction paper. Make them a bit smaller than the inside of the box. Glue the leaf shapes in the sections between the folds. With a black marker, write one event or experience that stands out for each year of the child's life. For example, "Had a buzz cut done by Dad"; "Refused to eat vegetables"; "Won Pinewood Derby race"; etc. Gently fold the long beanstalk neatly in the box and replace the lid.

At the birthday celebration, watch the birthday kid smile when he lifts the lid to see the beanstalk grow with a delightful mix of memories.

Extra tip: The accordion card in a box is terrific birthday gift greeting and treasured keepsake for grandparents, aunt and uncles, too. Simply make the beanstalk a little or a lot longer!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

‘American Idol’ sends home first finalist

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“American Idol” viewers didn’t tell Ashthon Jones they loved her.

The silky smooth 24-year-old retail manager from Nashville, Tenn., on Thursday was revealed to have the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent competition.

The judges decided not to save Jones after her performance of Diana Ross’ “When You Tell Me That You Love Me.” Jones said before her dismissal that she regretted not selecting a more popular Ross tune.

“I was rooting for you, baby,” Jennifer Lopez told a weeping Jones.

Joining Jones as the bottom three vote-getters were 21-year-old college student Karen Rodriguez of New York and 20-year-old college student Haley Reinhart of Wheeling, Ill. Randy Jackson dubbed their respective Wednesday performances of Selena’s “I Could Fall In Love” and LeAnn Rimes’ “Blue” as sleepy, and he criticized Reinhart’s lack of direction.

“Find your lane,” Jackson advised.

Casey Abrams, the 20-year-old film camp counselor from Idyllwild, Calif., delivered an energetic take on Joe Cocker’s rendition of “With a Little Help From My Friends” during Wednesday’s performance episode. He earned enough votes to move on in the competition, but he missed out on the results because he was hospitalized, “Idol” host Ryan Seacrest said.

“You’ll notice that Casey is missing from the group. He is unfortunately sick and in the hospital right now,” Seacrest said.

He didn’t elaborate on Abrams’ condition, and Fox had no additional comment on the matter.

The other finalists remaining in the competition are Naima Adedapo, 26, of Milwaukee; Lauren Alaina, 16, of Rossville, Ga.; James Durbin, 22, of Santa Cruz, Calif.; Stefano Langone, 21, of Kent, Wash.; Jacob Lusk, 23, of Compton, Calif.; Scotty McCreery, 17, of Garner, N.C.; Paul McDonald, 26, of Nashville, Tenn.; Thia Megia, 16, of Mountain House, Calif.; and Pia Toscano, 22, of Howard Beach, N.Y.

AP

“American Idol” finalist Ashthon Jones poses at the “American Idol” Finalists Party in Los Angeles, Thursday, March 3, 2011.

Lohan leaves court with new offer from judge

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Thursday gave Lindsay Lohan two weeks to consider an undisclosed deal to end a felony grand theft case before an upcoming hearing that could send the starlet to jail for the fourth time.

Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz told the “Mean Girls” star that he had told her attorney and a prosecutor how he would likely sentence her if she agreed to plead guilty or no contest in the case, but said he would keep the terms confidential.

The theft case is now bound for an April 22 preliminary hearing before another judge who will decide if there is enough evidence for Lohan to stand trial or to be sent to jail for violating probation in another case.

If Lohan appeared again in his court, Schwartz said, he would know she was accepting his offer.

During a hearing Thursday before Schwartz, the actress signaled a desire to fight the charge involving a $2,500 necklace by rejecting a prosecutor’s plea deal that included a guaranteed jail sentence.

Schwartz previously said he would sentence Lohan to jail if she pleaded guilty but did not make a similar threat on Thursday.

Lohan, wearing a shiny brownish-gray dress, spoke only once during the hearing, telling Schwartz she understood the schedule for the hearings.

She has pleaded not guilty to stealing the necklace from Kamofie & Co., a jewelry store near Lohan’s home in the beach community of Venice.

Lohan’s return to court came days after surveillance footage was aired of her trying on necklaces at the shop, which reported the necklace stolen on Jan. 22.

Sheen files $100 million suit against Warner Bros.

By ANTHONY MCCARTNEY and LYNN ELBER
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Charlie Sheen brought his verbal war against Warner Bros. and the executive producer of “Two and a Half Men” to the courtroom on Thursday, filing a $100 million lawsuit seeking to recoup his salary and wages for the show’s cast and crew.

The breach of contract lawsuit alleges production was halted on the CBS sitcom in part to punish Sheen for recent behavior that has included two hospitalizations and, in recent weeks, a series of interviews in which he has attacked executive producer Chuck Lorre. But the suit and Sheen’s attorney, Marty Singer, say most of the incidents cited by Warner Bros. for firing Sheen occurred before his tirades against Lorre began.

“The suspension and termination of Mr. Sheen occurred only after Mr. Sheen had finally been provoked into criticizing Lorre in response to his harassment and disparagement campaign which had been going on for years,” according to the suit.

The filing comes four days after Sheen was terminated from “Two and a Half Men,” leaving the top-rated sitcom’s future in doubt.

Sheen’s lawsuit alleges that Warner Bros. bowed to Lorre’s desire to punish Sheen, and that the producer and studio conspired to blame the actor for causing production to stop.

A termination letter cited concerns about Sheen’s health. Singer said it would be illegal for the studio to fire the actor if he had the physical and mental issues described in the letter.

“We’re saying he was ready, willing and able to work and he could have worked,” Singer said.

The suit also was filed on behalf of the sitcom’s other cast members and crew, who were put out of work. Although they are not a party in the case, Singer said the actor is attempting to get reimbursement for all members of the show who lost money because of the actions of Warner Bros. and Lorre.

Last week, Warner announced it was paying the “Men” crew for four of the eight episodes it canceled this season.

Lorre’s attorney, Howard Weitzman, said the allegations against his client are as “recklessly false and unwarranted as Mr. Sheen’s rantings in the media. These accusations are simply imaginary.”

The lawsuit is about a “fantasy” lottery payout for Sheen, Weitzman said in a statement Thursday, adding, “Chuck Lorre’s concern has been and continues to be about Mr. Sheen’s health.”

The studio declined to comment on the suit, as did series co-star Jon Cryer.

On top of Sheen’s $100 million request for damages, the 45-year-old actor is seeking punitive damages.

He took to Twitter soon after the lawsuit’s filing, writing, “Fastball: Torpedo away... You corporate Trolls were warned. And now you’ve been served!”

The complaint states that Sheen’s most recent contract, executed last May, entitles him to be paid whether the series films for up to 24 episodes per season through late 2011. Singer said Sheen was prepared to walk away from the show last year, but that the studio and producers wanted him to return despite his being accused of domestic violence in Aspen, Colo., against then-wife Brooke Mueller.

Sheen’s lawsuit states that he attempted to return to the series in mid-February, but was told that Lorre had not prepared production scripts for the season’s remaining episodes, which was later shortened.

“I think his theory of the case is interesting,” said Jeffrey Spitz, an entertainment litigator for more than 25 years. “He’s pitched it in a way that is potentially beneficial to him in that he’s saying all of this occurred before he opened his mouth.”

Spitz said that may enable Sheen’s attorneys to keep his most recent interviews from being used during the trial, although what evidence may be heard will be decided by a judge.

“It also gives him a good leverage position in any settlement negotiations,” said Spitz, a partner at Greenberg Glusker who has represented Sharon Stone and boxer Oscar de la Hoya in legal disputes.

The lawsuit includes several references to Lorre’s ego and claims the veteran television producer of shows such as “Roseanne” and “The Big Bang Theory” has trouble managing top-tier actors.

“This dispute is not the first time that Lorre has had problems working with major television stars, including Roseanne Barr, Cybill Shepherd, and Brett Butler,” the complaint states.

Sheen’s firing had followed a rare, raging public battle between a Hollywood star and those who employ him, with Sheen claiming the right to live as he pleased - including the acknowledged use of illegal drugs, although he’s said he is currently clean - as long as he showed up sober and ready to work.

Chopin experts debate photo’s authenticity

BY MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Chopin experts are trying to determine whether a photo that has surfaced in Poland is really of the 19th century composer.

If authentic, it would be only the third known photograph of Chopin, who lived from 1810-1849.

Wladyslaw Zuchowski, a photographer and gallery owner in Gdansk, said Thursday that he bought the daguerreotype, the earliest type of photograph, from a private owner in Scotland in December. The framed copper and silver image bears the imprinted year of 1849, when Chopin died in Paris, and the name of Louis Auguste Bisson, a French photographer who took at least one photograph of Chopin during the pianist’s lifetime.

On the frame is attached a piece of paper with Frederic Chopin’s name.

Zuchowski said he believes it might come from a collection gathered by Jane Stirling, a Scottish student and admirer of Chopin’s. He refused to identify its previous owner or say how much he paid for it.

Zuchowski said he plans to make it available for exhibitions around the world.

AP

This photo released on Thursday, March 10, 2011 provided by Wladyslaw Zuchowski, is believed to show the 19th century composer Frederic Chopin just after his death in 1849.

Several experts expressed skepticism.

Alicja Knast, the curator of the Frederic Chopin museum in Warsaw, said there are no records suggesting that such a daguerreotype was made of Chopin, but noted that there is a market for fake images.

Malgorzata Grabczewska, a photography expert at the Polish Library in Paris, said she has doubts about its authenticity because Bisson never imprinted his name or date on his daguerreotypes, while such stamps appear on daguerreotypes proven to be fake.

Charlie Sheen shopping memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Is the world ready for a memoir called "Apocalypse Me"?

Perhaps if it's by Charlie Sheen.

The recently fired star of the CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men" wants to tell his combustible life story, said executives at three publishing houses who asked not to be identified, citing the sensitive nature of the project.

Two of the publishers said Thursday that the book had the working title "Apocalypse Me," a reference to "Apocalypse Now," the Francis Ford Coppola film starring Sheen's father, Martin Sheen. Charlie Sheen has said he is obsessed by the film, which takes Joseph Conrad's classic novella of madness, "Heart of Darkness," and changes the setting from Africa to Vietnam.

Sheen

The publishers who spoke to The Associated Press all said they turned down the memoir and expressed amazement anyone would take it, even if a finished work would likely be a best-seller. They cited Sheen's public rants and chaotic private life, including a history of accusations of domestic violence. And Sheen has filed a $100 million lawsuit against Warner Bros. and the executive producer of "Two and a Half Men," and he might be restricted in what he could say about the program.

Dido talks about becoming a mother, new album

NEW YORK (AP)—Dido does not know the sex of her baby, but she is not going wait until her due date to find out.

Dido

"I'm too curious," the British singer-songwriter said in a recent interview. "It's enough of a surprise on the day."

Dido is due to have her first child this summer. Its already has been a big year: She was nominated for an Academy Award for best song for co-writing "If I Rise" from the movie "127 Hours," and is finishing up a new album.

"I'm nearly done," she said last month about her coming album. "Music will just start coming out as this year goes on."

Dido, perhaps best known stateside for the song "Thank You," which was sampled by Eminem for "Stan," said her new record brings her back to her electronic roots. She is once again working with her brother, Rollo Armstrong, as well as other producers.

"It's been a thoroughly enjoyable record," she said. "It's a real mix, and in a funny sort of way, it's a mix of everything, some sort of big electronic extravaganza. It's much more electronic than the last record."

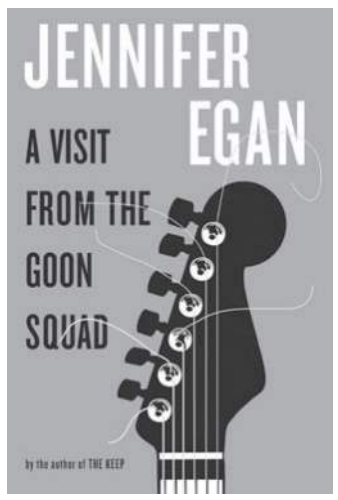
"Safe Trip Home," which was released in 2008, was Dido's last studio album. She is more eager to perform in front of fans with her new album.

"... I didn't want to tour that record for a really long time, partly because it was a really dark record and stuff, whereas this record, apart from anything, there's a lot of really fun stuff on this record," the 39-year-old said.

Jennifer Egan wins Critics Circle fiction prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Egan's "A Visit from the Goon Squad," a daring and disturbing journey through music, time and technology, won the fiction prize Thursday night from the National Book Critics Circle.

Egan's narrative roundelay of connected stories was among last year's most praised works and won out over four other finalists, including the most talked about novel of 2010, Jonathan Franzen's "Freedom." Egan praised the critics as "guardian angels" who "actually described and remembered" her book and inspired the general public to read it. While "Goon Squad" looks closely into the high-tech future, she noted that the most futuristic section, structured like a PowerPoint presentation, caused fans to tell her that they couldn't read the book on a Kindle, so had to buy the hardcover.



"Score one for print publishing," she said.

Other winners were Sarah Bakewell's "How To Live" for biography; Isabel Wilkerson's "The Warmth of Other Suns" for general nonfiction; Darin Strauss' "Half a Life" for autobiography; C.D. Wright's "One with Others" for poetry; and Clare Cavanagh's "Lyric Poetry and Modern Politics" for criticism. There were no cash prizes.

Following a year when the praise for Franzen, subject of a Time magazine cover story titled "Great American Novelist," caused debate in the book community over whether male authors were regarded more seriously, five of the six winners in the competitive categories were women. Four of the five finalists for an honorary criticism prize were women, and the winner was Parul Sehgal of Publishers Weekly.

An honorary prize for lifetime achievement was given to the Dalkey Archive Press, which specializes in works in translation, experimental fiction and literary criticism.

Roseanne Barr, Hawaii neighbors enter mediation

WAIMEA, Hawaii (AP)—Roseanne Barr and her Hawaii neighbors appeared in court Thursday and agreed to enter mediation after the comedian sought a temporary restraining order against the couple.

District Court Judge Melvin Fujino on Thursday ordered the parties to return to court on April 14.

Barr sought legal action against Roree and Richard Oehlman, who own property next to Barr's 46-acre macadamia nut farm in Honokaa on the northern end of the Big Island, after they filed a complaint about unauthorized grading work being done on the farm.

Barr accused the Oehlmans of harassment and trespassing, including videotaping Barr and the farm. The Oehlmans said Barr's presence brought unwanted attention to the community and work on her property was being done without the proper permits.

Looking relaxed in a brown sundress and tan jacket, Barr was accompanied by her boyfriend of seven years Johnny Argent, daughter and son-in-law, and two attorneys at the Kohala Courthouse in Waimea.

She spoke only when the judge asked if she agreed to mediation. "Yes," she said.

Barr told reporters after her court appearance that she was ready to "get serious" and was hopeful of a good outcome through the mediation process.

"My privacy, that's the thing that is most important," Barr said. "I love the Big Island and pretty much appreciate the people here."

Roree Oehlman said she is hopeful the issue will be resolved through mediation.

"I think everything can be worked out in the traditional Hawaiian way," Oehlman said. "I'd hate to see an escalation of the issues, but I just don't think she realizes the impact she has on the community."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Limitless'? Not Hollywood, says Robert De Niro

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite his years in film, Robert De Niro says he still can't do anything he wants in Hollywood. He notes the troubles and delays he experienced with "The Good Shepherd," the 2006 CIA tale that he directed and starred in. De Niro doubts he could make a similar film now. He says people don't really want to do "those kind of movies" nowadays. Still, De Niro says he does have a choice of roles that other actors would envy and that he "can't complain." The actor's latest film, "Limitless," debuts in theaters March 18. In it, De Niro plays a mega-mogul. Co-star Bradley Cooper plays an unsuccessful writer whose life is transformed after he discovers a secret drug that allows him to use 100 percent of his brain.

Comedian Gallagher collapses during Minn. Show

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—Comedian Gallagher has been rushed to a hospital after collapsing during a performance in Minnesota. Todd Powers, owner of Whiskey Bone's Roadhouse in Rochester, said the 64-year-old Gallagher collapsed in the middle of a show Thursday night. Powers said it appeared the comedian may have had a stroke or a heart attack. It's unclear what his condition is. A witness, Chris Blade, told the Rochester Post-Bulletin that Gallagher had complained of pain in his left arm and shortness of breath earlier in the evening. Blade said Gallagher was responsive when emergency crews were taking him out of the club. Gallagher, whose real name is Leo Anthony Gallagher, is best known for smashing watermelons with a sledgehammer.

Jennifer Aniston plans non-comedy movie projects

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Actress Jennifer Aniston says some non-comedy movie projects are in her future, including a film based on the true story of an all-female country-western band that formed at a Texas prison in the 1940s. Aniston says the band was "sort of the Dixie Chicks of their time." No production or release dates have been set for the project, tentatively titled "The Goree Girls." After starring in a string of romantic comedies such as "Just Go With It," Aniston may be turning her sights to more serious fare. Another project, tentatively called "Counterclockwise," may focus on the studies of Ellen Langer, a renowned Harvard psychology professor. Aniston was in Mexico City on Thursday to promote her new perfume, which bears her name.

Worry for childhood friend overshadows happy reunion

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently ran into "Grace," who was a dear friend back in elementary school. Back then my parents helped her mother flee and divorce her abusive husband. At age 12 we lost touch because Grace moved to another school and joined a "bad crowd."

Eighteen years later I was happy to see her again, and gave her my phone number. I have the feeling something is a bit "off" about Grace now. She has called me repeatedly and in her messages she sounds nervous and stumbles over her words. When I called her back, she told me she was in a serious car accident nine years ago and hasn't held a job since. The entire conversation was strange, and my gut is telling me Grace has a drug problem.

She has asked me to lunch to "catch up." I'm a stay-at-home mom and not comfortable meeting her in person, especially with my kids. I feel guilty for not wanting to see someone I was so close to when I was young, and for assuming she has a drug problem.

Am I wrong in making this assumption? Should I stop returning her calls and ignore her, or should I see her to make a determination?

ALL GROWN UP IN VEGAS

DEAR ALL GROWN UP: You are wrong to prejudge the woman. While it's possible Grace has a drug problem, it is also possible that the car accident left her with an injury that has affected her speech. See her without your children and make a determination.

If she is impaired because of injury, would that make a difference in how you feel about her? Your lives have gone in different directions. She appears to be needy. With your responsibilities as a parent, how much time and effort would you be able to devote to her? Only you can answer these questions. But to take the coward's way out and ignore her would be cruel.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 40-year-old single mom who is just getting back into the dating scene after being divorced for a year and a half. There is a guy, "Hank," I'm interested in getting to know better. We both have kids who go to the same high school. We have gone to several out-of-town football games with our kids and have texted each other often.

What's bothering me is Hank has never asked me on a one-on-one date. Should I ask him, or should I wait for him to make the first move? I don't want to appear desperate, but I really would like to get closer.

STEPPING BACK INTO THE SCENE

DEAR STEPPING BACK: I wish you had given me a little more information about Hank—such as why he's raising his children alone and for how long, and whether he dates at all. However, I don't think it would be overly aggressive to say (casually) to him, "You know, we never get a chance to talk one-on-one, and I'd like to get to know you better. Why don't we have dinner one night?" It's not an obvious proposition, and if he's at all interested he'll agree.

■■■

DEAR READERS: To those of you living where daylight saving time is observed, I offer this gentle reminder: Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour at bedtime tonight. Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. tomorrow, and you know what that means—spring is on the way!

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

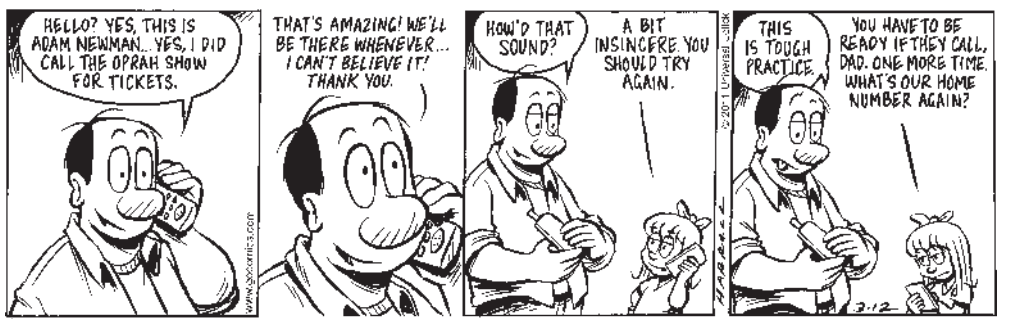
HA! I LANDED ON CHANCE! I GET TO TAKE A CARD!
OH NO!
IT SAYS, "DEFRAUD THE BANK. COMPUTER SCAM DIVERTS ASSETS TO YOUR ACCOUNT. COLLECT $5000."
$5,000?!
I THINK I'LL BUY A FEW DOZEN HOTELS.
OOH, YOU JUST WAIT TILL I LAND ON CHANCE!
MONOPOLY IS MORE FUN WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR OWN CHANCE CARDS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

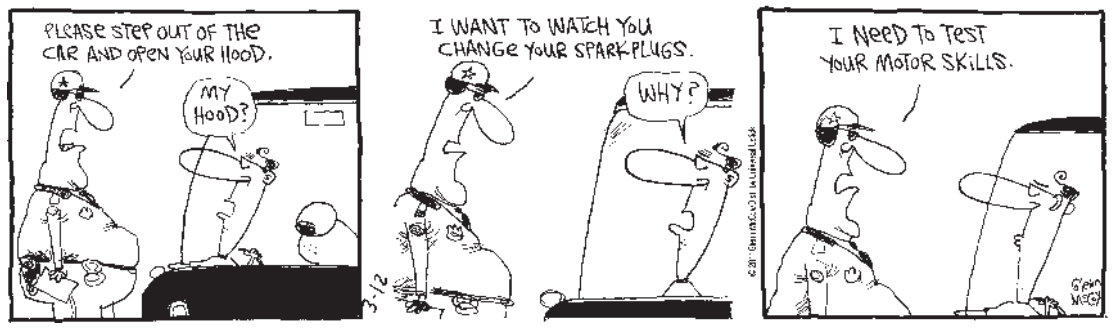
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HELLO? YES, THIS IS ADAM NEWMAN.. YES, I DID CALL THE OPRAH SHOW FOR TICKETS.
THAT'S AMAZING! WE'LL BE THERE WHENEVER... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THANK YOU.
HOW'D THAT SOUND?
A BIT INSINCERE. YOU SHOULD TRY AGAIN.
THIS IS TOUGH PRACTICE.
YOU HAVE TO BE READY IF THEY CALL, DAD. ONE MORE TIME. WHAT'S OUR HOME NUMBER AGAIN?
3-12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


PLEASE STEP OUT OF THE CAR AND OPEN YOUR HOOD.
MY HOOD?
I WANT TO WATCH YOU CHANGE YOUR SPARK PLUGS.
WHY?
I NEED TO TEST YOUR MOTOR SKILLS.
3-12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Protuberance
5 Quoits pegs
9 Blond shade
12 Birthright barterer
13 Gumbo need
14 Bill's partner
15 Predicate part
16 Follow relentlessly
17 Big Apple letters
18 Pastoral poem
19 Reuben holder
20 Summit
21 Altar affirmative
23 Supporting
25 Reinforced
28 Helix
32 "Lather, —, repeat"
33 Argentina-based musical
34 Beekeeper's place
36 Garland
37 Melissa of "The Fighter"
38 17-Across hrs.
39 Rubik's baffler
42 Cardtable call
44 Catch sight of
48 Inseparable
49 Discourteous
50 Duel tool
51 "Monty Python" opener
52 Vicinity
53 Money of China
54 Parcel of land
55 Sch. orgs.
56 Blunders

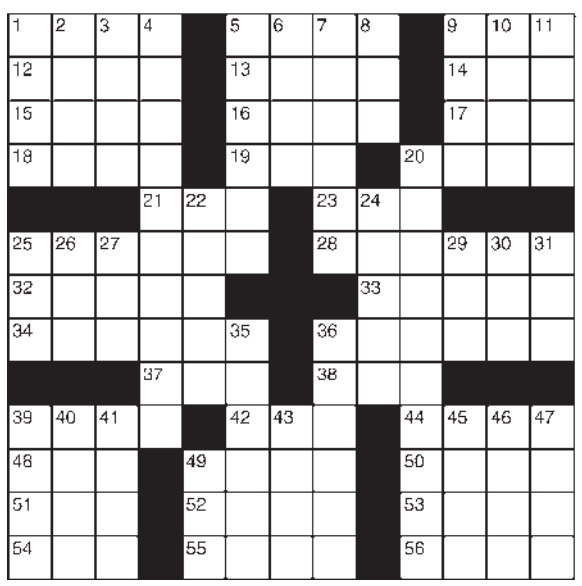
DOWN

1 Jeansmaker Strauss
2 Secondhand
3 Creche VIP
4 Auction
5 Fast car
6 Fine
7 Boxers' alternative?
8 Mineo of Hollywood
9 Dermatology case
10 High-protein bean
11 Pawn
20 Gumshoe
22 Big name in tractors
24 Unwraps
25 Monokini's lack
26 Rend
27 Blackbird
29 Disencumber
30 Devoured
31 Felon's flight
35 Dannon product
36 Trojan War hero
39 Spring wind?
40 "Do — others ..."
41 Oscar-night superlative
43 Concept
45 Boot attachment
46 Brandy flavor
47 Longings
49 Knock

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	I	B	■	A	T	O	M	■	G	Y	M	S
E	C	U	■	B	O	L	A	■	R	O	U	E
B	U	S	Y	B	O	D	Y	■	O	G	L	E
■	■	T	E	A	K	■	■	B	U	I	L	D
B	A	L	L	S	■	C	H	I	N	■	■	■
R	O	I	L	■	B	R	E	A	D	B	O	X
A	N	N	■	B	O	O	M	S	■	U	L	M
D	E	G	R	A	S	S	I	■	A	S	E	A
■	■	■	H	I	S	S	■	A	D	I	O	S
B	E	R	Y	L	■	■	O	P	E	N	■	■
O	M	I	T	■	B	U	S	H	N	E	L	L
N	I	G	H	■	U	G	L	I	■	S	E	E
D	R	A	M	■	G	O	O	D	■	S	I	X

Yesterday's answer 3-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darryl Strawberry, 49; Courtney B. Vance, 51; James Taylor, 63; Liza Minnelli, 65

Happy Birthday: You'll have added drive and ambition, so focus on your goals. Don't let other people's indecisiveness stand in your way. Emotional upset will develop if you are not precise when dealing with institutions, agencies or anything that can cause a legal or contractual problem. Stay on top of what you are doing and refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. Your numbers are 5, 13, 15, 24, 26, 33, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't hold back if there is something you want. Rely on old friends to come to the rescue. You can overcome any obstacle, so hurry up and make things happen. You'll make a lasting impression and can enhance your love life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you aren't happy with the way things are going or you feel you are being treated wrongly, confront the situation so that you can get on with your life. You cannot move forward until you lighten your baggage. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Help someone in need and it will lead to interesting people, places and possibilities. Love is in the stars and whether you are in a relationship or not, you must enhance the prospects by engaging in social activities conducive to romance. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put forth an effort or you will be criticized for not doing enough. Expect to face opposition. You may be forced to make a decision that leads to a parting of the ways. Focus on what you want and the best way to get it. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You need a change of scenery. Include someone you love or, if you are single, keep your eyes open for someone who appeals to you. Love and lifestyle change is apparent and can lead to an exciting new beginning. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Not everyone will see things your way. Find out as much as possible about a part time business venture that can subsidize any cash flow problems you face. Hard work should be enough to get you moving in the right direction. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Utilizing your charm, intuition and creative imagination will help you attract both personal and professional interest in you and what you want to develop. Romance is apparent and can lead to an interesting evening emotionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Fix up your surroundings. Once you have a space that is conducive to the type of work you want to produce or the hobby you want to pursue, you will feel at ease about spending a little cash to get things up and running. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may have to answer some questions about information you have been handing out. Matters will escalate if you argue with anyone who is emotional about a situation that has developed. Listen, but refrain from getting more deeply involved. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick to the people and places you know and trust. Problems while traveling or conversing with acquaintances will develop. Know the facts before you embark on an argument that may damage your reputation. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can make positive changes to your home and love life. Greater stability will develop if you discuss your feelings. Financial benefits will be introduced if you are willing to share your time, space and knowledge with someone compatible. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Expect to be questioned about your personal life and your plans for the future. A secret needs to be revealed so you aren't wrongly blamed. Make a commitment and get things out in the open. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, progressive and ready for any challenge. You are sensitive and emotional.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9						1	
			5		3			
8	7						9	5
		7		2		4		
		9		3		8		
		1		6		5		
5	2						8	3
			9		8			
	6						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	2	7	6	1	5	3	8
6	7	8	3	5	9	4	1	2
5	3	1	4	2	8	6	9	7
3	6	4	5	9	2	8	7	1
9	2	5	8	1	7	3	4	6
8	1	7	6	4	3	9	2	5
1	5	6	9	7	4	2	8	3
7	8	9	2	3	6	1	5	4
2	4	3	1	8	5	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GREY GOOSE ANYONE? **Solution: 6 letters**

W	G	L	Z	Ⓒ	P	T	P	R	E	M	I	U	M	R
H	O	E	Ⓞ	V	U	L	E	Y	E	N	O	H	Y	O
S	S	Ⓡ	L	S	A	P	U	N	S	T	I	R	B	C
T	Ⓚ	I	C	A	P	N	O	M	Y	L	F	P	R	K
R	H	A	N	E	T	T	I	E	R	A	I	A	I	S
A	N	G	P	R	S	I	I	L	E	S	N	P	K	I
W	C	N	I	E	A	T	N	O	L	B	E	R	N	R
B	A	A	M	L	S	G	E	N	E	A	C	I	E	Q
E	E	I	N	Y	N	S	F	R	C	T	T	K	B	S
R	L	D	R	G	U	O	R	R	S	R	A	A	O	Q
R	P	U	N	G	O	Y	O	P	A	H	R	S	T	U
Y	P	M	A	A	N	C	E	M	S	N	I	U	T	E
O	A	R	Y	T	R	A	P	S	I	W	C	R	L	E
W	H	E	A	T	R	B	S	T	N	I	M	E	E	Z
T	A	B	A	S	C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L	R	E

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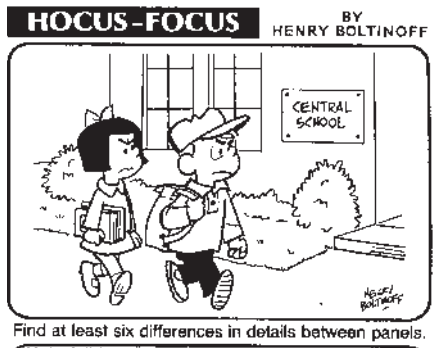
Apple, Bermudian, Bottle, Brand, Celery, Cocktail, Cognac, Cork, Cranberry, Fine, France, Garnish, Gelatin, Honey, Kirby, Limestone, Martini, Melon, Mint, Moonlight, Nectar, Paprika, Party, Pear, Pepper, Plum, Premium, Rocks, Salt, Sangria, Shaker, Squeeze, Stir, Strawberry, Sugar, Syrup, Tabasco, Taste, Tuscan, Vanilla, Wheat, Wisp, Worcestershire, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Squids

To order "THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 book, $5.95 each, plus handling and postage. Make check payable to Universal Uclick, and mail to 38 pounds for the first book, $1 each for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-943-5421. Order online at wonderword.com

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. School sign is different. 2. Bow is miss.ng. 3. Tree is gone. 4. Hat is different. 5. Girl has briefcase instead of books. 6. Boy has short sleeves.

Wishing Well®

4	8	3	6	4	6	3	5	8	7	5	2	6
B	G	C	T	E	E	O	C	L	W	A	B	A
3	4	2	8	7	6	3	6	3	8	7	2	8
M	G	E	A	I	C	F	H	O	D	N	H	F
7	3	5	7	3	2	8	2	5	7	3	8	5
N	R	R	I	T	O	O	N	E	N	A	R	F
6	8	7	8	3	4	2	5	6	4	8	6	2
S	O	G	T	S	R	O	U	U	A	H	C	R
8	7	3	5	2	4	5	8	2	4	6	5	3
E	C	S	L	A	C	I	R	B	I	C	N	U
5	3	6	8	5	4	5	6	7	3	4	3	7
V	R	E	S	E	O	S	S	H	E	U	D	O
5	4	5	6	7	5	2	5	2	7	5	7	7
T	S	M	S	I	E	L	N	E	C	T	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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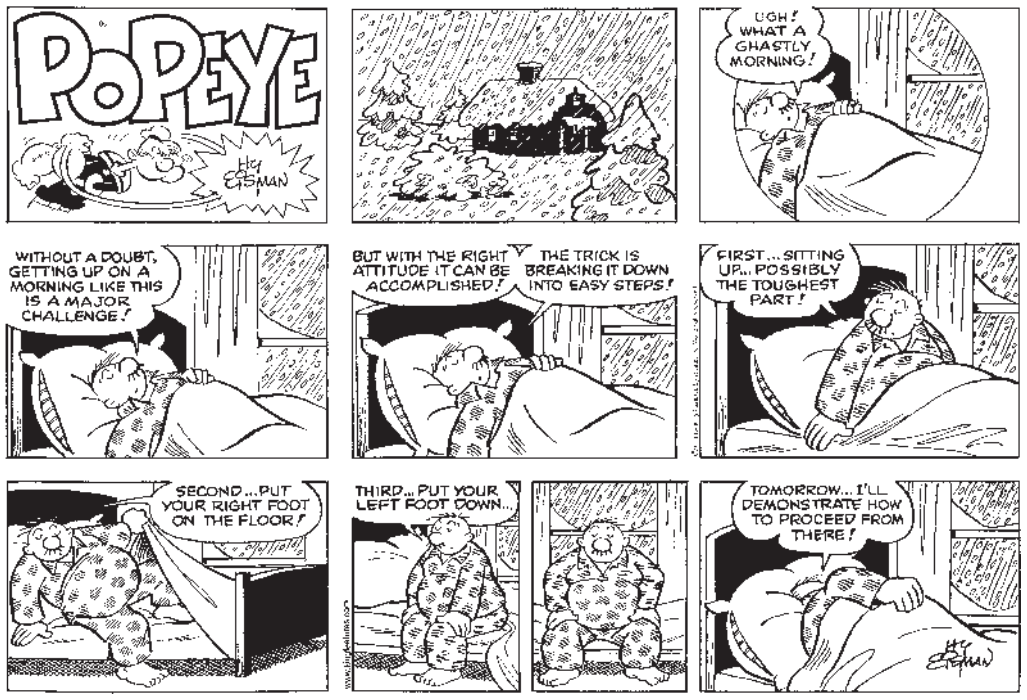
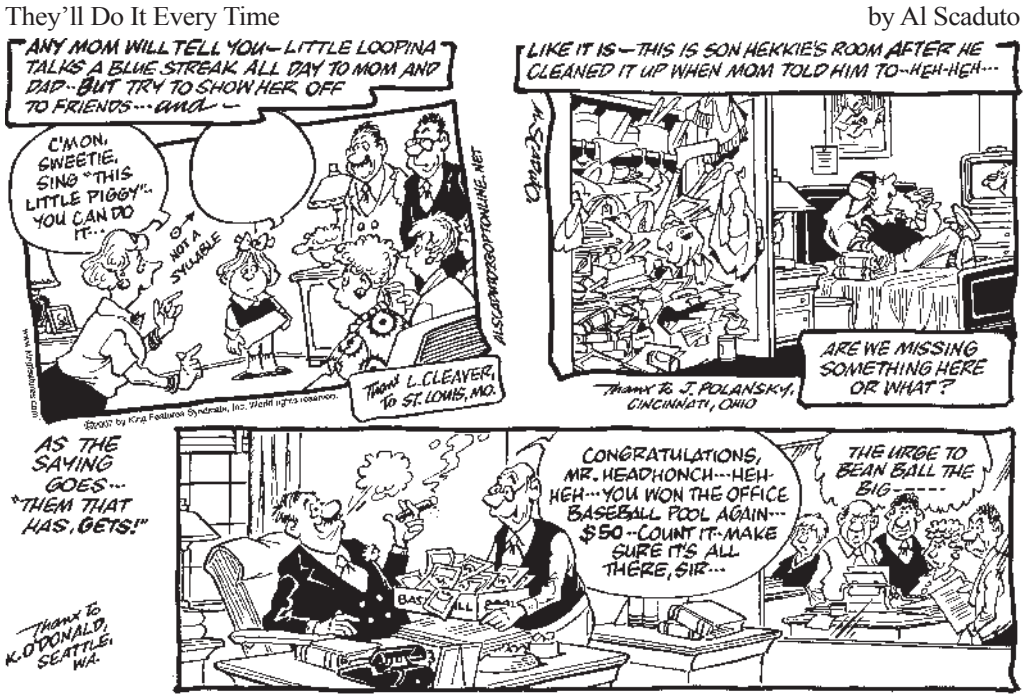
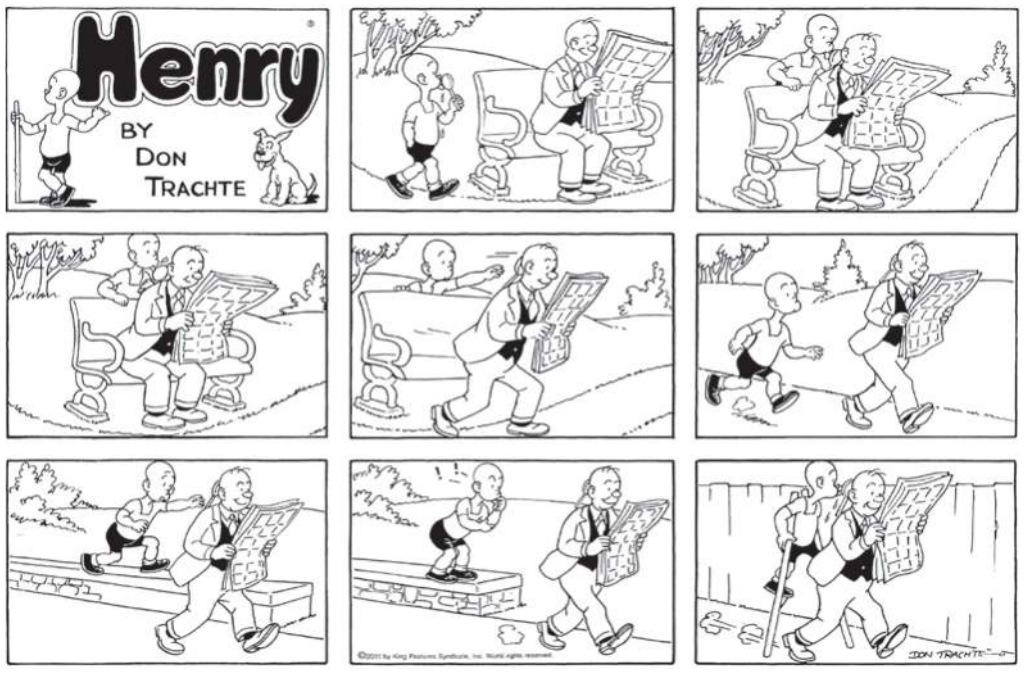

POPEYE
Hoy EISMAN
UGH! WHAT A GHASTLY MORNING!
WITHOUT A DOUBT, GETTING UP ON A MORNING LIKE THIS IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE!
BUT WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED!
THE TRICK IS BREAKING IT DOWN INTO EASY STEPS!
FIRST... SITTING UP... POSSIBLY THE TOUGHEST PART!
SECOND... PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT ON THE FLOOR!
THIRD... PUT YOUR LEFT FOOT DOWN...
TOMORROW... I'LL DEMONSTRATE HOW TO PROCEED FROM THERE!

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


ANY MOM WILL TELL YOU— LITTLE LOOPINA TALKS A BLUE STREAK ALL DAY TO MOM AND DAD-- BUT TRY TO SHOW HER OFF TO FRIENDS--- and---
C'MON, SWEETIE, SING "THIS LITTLE PIGGY"... YOU CAN DO IT...
NOT A SYLLABLE
THANK L. CLEAVER, TO ST. LOUIS, MO.
LIKE IT IS— THIS IS SON HEKKIE'S ROOM AFTER HE CLEANED IT UP WHEN MOM TOLD HIM TO--HEH-HEH---
ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING HERE OR WHAT?
Thanks To J. POLANSKY, CINCINNATI, OHIO
AS THE SAYING GOES... "THEM THAT HAS, GETS!"
CONGRATULATIONS, MR. HEADHONCH---HEH-HEH---YOU WON THE OFFICE BASEBALL POOL AGAIN--- $50--COUNT IT--MAKE SURE IT'S ALL THERE, SIR...
THE URGE TO BEAN BALL THE BIG-----
Thanks To K. O'DONALD, SEATTLE, WA.



Super Crossword

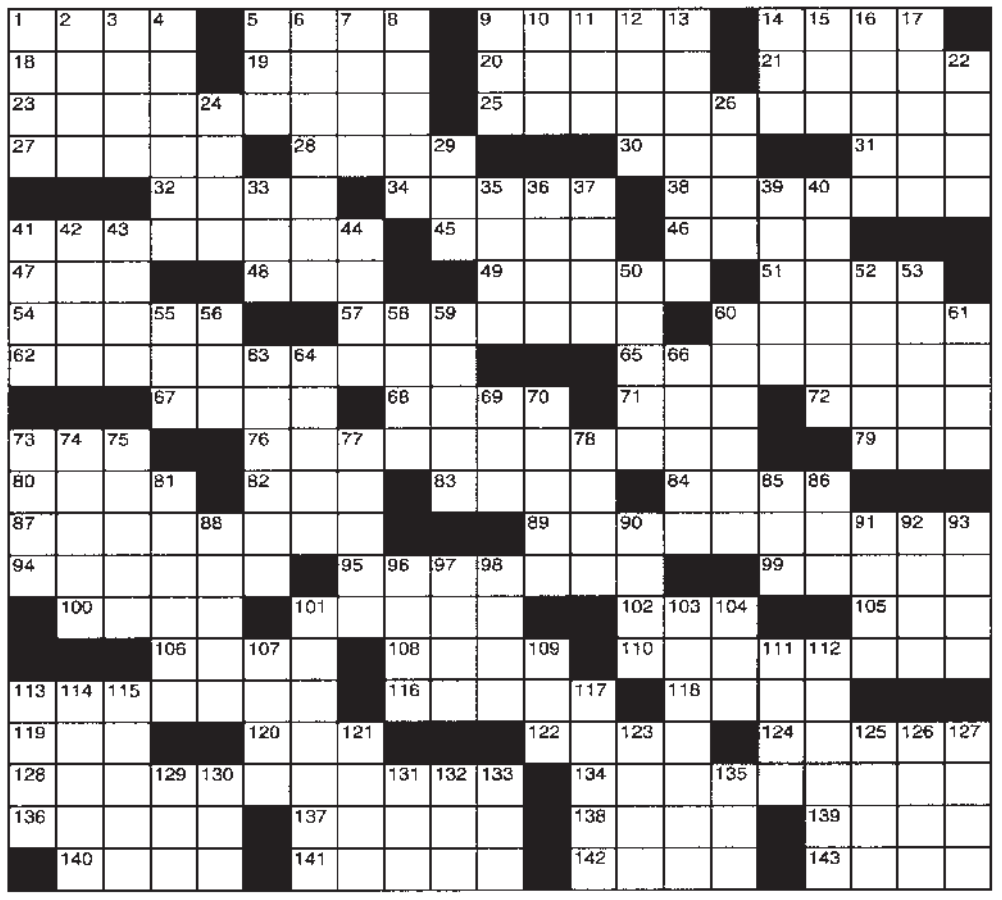
ANIMAL ANATOMY

ACROSS

1 Tiller
5 Grandpa McCoy
9 Michelangelo masterpiece
14 Ward of "Sisters"
18 "Typee" sequel
19 Callas or Caballe
20 Confess
21 Roman fountain
23 Stubborn
25 Courageous
27 Fantastic bargain
28 Envelop
30 "Xanadu" rock group
31 Trams transport it
32 "Red Red —" ('88 smash)
34 Girl Scout unit
38 Diplomacy term
41 Winked or waved
45 Journalist Buchanan
46 Former autocrat
47 Actress Massen
48 Scrape by, with "out"
49 Light weight
51 Reformer Lucretia
54 Montessori or Muldaur
57 Less plentiful
60 Van Dyke role
62 Powerfully built
65 Tractable
67 Wooden strip
68 Flight maneuver
71 "— Days" ('75 tune)
72 Hypocrisy
73 Bikini half
76 Foolhardy
79 Pigment
80 Masterson colleague
82 Ginger —
83 — Haven, CT
84 Job opening
87 Ceylon, today
89 Coarse-featured
94 Tahini base
95 TV's "Three's —"
99 Loudly, to Liszt
100 Betting setting
101 Shallow area
102 Spring mo.
105 "Sat — tuffet . . ."
106 Humorist Bombeck
108 Illinois city
110 Maritime
113 Nutritional need
116 "Frasier" pooch
118 "— my lips!"
119 Loser to DDE
120 Vitamin bottle abbr.
122 Tony winner Robert
124 Young cadet
128 Very slender
134 Sharp-sighted
136 Malice
137 Practice piece
138 Cut short
139 Mlle., farther south
140 Pants part
141 Inflexibility
142 Some bills
143 Jets, Mets, or Nets

DOWN

1 Brewery supply
2 Give off
3 Theater section
4 "Drums Along the —" ('39 film)
5 "Tobacco Road" character
6 Wednesday
7 Done
8 Egyptian Nobelist
9 Chum
10 Infamous Amin
11 Philips of "UHF"
12 Antler part
13 Strawberry, for one
14 Police hdqrs.
15 Drop a brick
16 Divulge
17 Ward off
22 "— fixe"
24 Designer Fiorucci
26 Billions of years
29 Common affix
33 Vane dir.
35 Aroma
36 Responsibility
37 French-door part
39 Emulated Gebel-Williams
40 Amatory
41 Fiasco
42 Genesis redhead
43 Wilson or Weathers
44 "— Set" ('57 film)
50 Vocalize like Vallee
52 Riser's relative
53 Metallic
55 Unwell
56 Literary collection
58 Soccer superstar
59 Hacienda material
60 Hawk
61 Diminutive suffix
63 Natural gas component
64 — talk
66 Sanctify
69 ". . . man — mouse?"
70 Turkish title
73 Myerson or Truman
74 Not as common
75 Originate
77 Arrive at
78 " Blame — the Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)
81 Telescope sighting
85 Oven setting
86 Eastern "Way"
88 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'— "
90 Jeri of "Star Trek: Voyager"
91 Gator's cousin
92 Sicilian volcano
93 Distribute the deck
96 Trickle
97 A sweeping success?
98 Soldier on
101 More granular
103 Ideal
104 Woody herb
107 Director Nair
109 Long or Peeples
111 Surveyor's need
112 Most indolent
113 Cat's dogs
114 Harvests
115 Davis of "Evening Shade"
117 Vote in
121 — Spumante
123 Challenge
125 Fontaine role
126 — carotene
127 Cheeseboard choice
129 Harper Valley grp.
130 Rainy
131 Yank
132 Maestro de Waart
133 Wagner's "— fliegende Hollander"
135 Audio antiques?



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What two nations lie directly north of the Gulf of Oman?
2. U.S. STATES: Which state's name is Spanish for "snow clad"?
3. MOVIES: What was the name of the Volkswagen made famous in "The Love Bug"?
4. FAMOUS PEOPLE: What abolitionist was the first black woman to win a court case against a white man for illegally selling her son as a slave?
5. LITERATURE: In what book did the characters Tweedledum and Tweedledee first appear?
6. LANGUAGE: What's another word for a plebiscite?
7. HISTORY: How much did the United States pay Russia for the Alaskan territory in 1867?
8. MUSIC: Who wrote "The Theme from Shaft"?
9. GAMES: Which chess piece looks like a castle tower?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was Harry Truman's home state?

Answers

1. Iran and Pakistan
2. Nevada
3. Herbie
4. Sojourner Truth
5. "Through the Looking-Glass"
6. Referendum
7. $7.2 million
8. Isaac Hayes
9. Rook
10. Missouri

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Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan

Owner is selling two, 2BR 1Bth living & separate kitchen, resort style residential units. Drinkable tap water, in house emergency generator, spacious swimming pool, 24 hours guarded security. Currently the units are let, perfect for cash flow investment. $120,000 or better offer. For more details, send your inquiry to anaks@pticom.com

www.saipantribune.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

1BR fully furnished apt. near MHS w/ AC, Texas Rd. 24 hrs. water, washer & dryer, ceiling fans in all rooms, walk-in closet. $375. water included. Call Ed 788-6268

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution: An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

i4ik94k9

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Heat snap 5-game slide, top Lakers

MIAMI (AP)—Less than 2 minutes to go, tie game, Kobe Bryant with the basketball and staring down Dwyane Wade.

Bryant's move was good.

Wade's reaction was better.

And in that moment, Miami's epic run of blown opportunities late in games started coming to an end.

Wade's steal set up LeBron James for the dunk that put Miami ahead to stay with 1:27 left, Chris Bosh scored 24 points in his first outing after saying he wanted more shots, and the Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 94-88 on Thursday night to end a five-game losing streak and hand the two-time defending NBA champions their first loss in nine games.

"We had everything riding on this game, really, to be honest with you," Bosh said.

Wade scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and James finished with 19 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for Miami, which secured a postseason bid with 17 games left—the earliest that's happened in franchise history.

That was an ancillary point: Winning again was all that mattered.

"We didn't want to run away from this," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We didn't want to hide from any of this. We want to get better. We want to make sure our game is right and ready when it really counts."

Bryant scored 24 points for the Lakers, who got 20 from Pau Gasol. Andrew Bynum finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for Los Angeles. And after the Lakers cleared out for a night in Miami—they're not flying out until Friday—Bryant stayed behind, taking hundreds of shots in a workout that lasted well over an hour and didn't end until just after midnight in Miami.

Yes, the night—and the ending—left a bad taste in his mouth.

Bryant and Wade tangled again after the steal led to the go-ahead basket, when Bryant tried a 3-pointer with 1:06 left. Wade was credited with a block, and Bryant said afterward he was fouled.

"It's clearly evident," Bryant said.

Said Wade: "I didn't."

That wasn't the lone bit of verbal jousting the teams engaged in Thursday.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson—who's shown a flair for poking the Heat more than once this season—struck again before tipoff when he likened Miami's tendencies to what you'd see in an Xbox video game.

"I'm not a big fan of the style that Miami plays," Jackson said.

He might like it less now, after the Heat finished off a season sweep of the defending champions.

"Good game," Jackson said in a very hasty postgame availability. "They played better than we did. I'm sure we'll see them again sometime, I'm sure."

For their part, the Heat were unfazed by Jackson's latest salvo. Wade laughed and rolled his eyes, and James dismissed it.

"You don't get too caught up in Phil's commentary," James said. "Phil's going to be Phil."

The final minutes hardly seemed like a team with an eight-game winning streak facing a team on a five-game losing streak.

It was theater, the out-of-your-seat, roaring-after-every-play variety.

Start with 4:42 left in the fourth quarter, when the game was tied for the 17th time by Gasol making two free throws, knotting things at 82-82.

Wade changed speeds for separation and drove past Bryant, putting Miami back on top, so Bryant—who had missed 9 of his last 11 shots—came down on the ensuing possession and hit a 3-pointer from near the Heat bench.

They were just getting started.

Bryant made another 3-pointer—officially, it went into the books as 28 feet, though it seemed longer—with 2:26 left to tie the game at 88. A minute later, Wade got his steal, James got his dunk, and Miami wouldn't trail again.

AP

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) prepares to shoot over Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol(16) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Thursday, March 10, 2011.

"D-Wade accepted the challenge," James said.

Miami went up four when James freed Wade with a screen against Bryant for a layup with 46.0 seconds left. Bryant lost the ball under the Lakers' basket five seconds later, and then James put it away with two free throws with 19.2 seconds remaining.

"We didn't protect the rim," said Bryant, whose team shot 29 percent in the second half. "We've done a good job and then in the fourth quarter we let Wade get all the way to the basket on those screen and roll actions and it cost us."

James went nearly 19 minutes without scoring in one stretch, until a layup with 5:20 left in the third gave Miami a 62-59 lead. When his drought ended, the entire Heat team started one.

The Lakers had a 9-0 spurt, capped by a 3-pointer from Derek Fisher. But Miami answered, scoring six of the final eight points of the period and getting within 70-68 when James stepped back and hit a 20-footer over Ron Artest with 0.2 seconds remaining.

So with that, Miami got a buzzer-beater to end the first quarter, the last basket of the second, and another beat-the-clock score to close the third.

The Heat have lost 11 times this season when having a chance to take the lead or tie the game in the final 12 seconds.

This one didn't go down to the absolute wire, though. Miami took care of it before the final moments.

"We knew this game was going to come down to the end ... We had to figure out a way and find a way, and we did that," Wade said.

Kobe hits the court in Miami—long after loss

MIAMI (AP)—Kobe Bryant stood on the Miami Heat's court, his shirt completely soaked. Sweat dripped onto the floor with his every step. He bent over at the waist, hands on his knees, breathing heavily.

Mind you, this wasn't during a Los Angeles Lakers game.

This was long afterward.

"It's my job," Bryant said.

Here's how Bryant responded to the Lakers' 94-88 loss at Miami on Thursday night: He worked out until Friday morning.

He was back on the floor at 10:47 p.m., not taking his last shot until just past midnight. He took hundreds of shots—3-pointers, post-ups, wing jumpers, corner jumpers, free throws, you name it, he took it—in a display that even had bleary eyed arena security workers pulling out cell phones to get photos and video.

At times, three ballboys were part of the act, which at one point drew more than 100 people courtside to watch. Security pleaded with people to leave, and hardly anyone listened.

"You've got to work at it," Bryant said. "This is what you're supposed to do. I mean, if you're not comfortable with something and you feel like you can tweak some things, you've got to work on them. It doesn't matter when you work on them. You've just got to get it done. You've got to work it out."

Afterward, he was calm, engaging, funny.

During the session, not so much.

He slapped basketballs in anger more than once after missing shots. He swore under his breath after misfiring. He even yelled at himself angrily after making a few shots.

An hour into the workout, he started making hard cuts before receiving passes from attendant Parron Outing—more on him later—who has worked with the Heat at times over the past 19 seasons.

"Stand right here," Bryant instructed, pointing to a corner of the lane. "Then hand it back to me."

So Outing did that. Again, and again, and again.

Outing had no idea how long the workout would last. All he knew was that when he walked off at 12:14 a.m., he was past his bedtime.

"He told me, 'Go get two balls,' and we came back out here," Outing said. "Total dedication."

Even he was sweating when it was over. But he'll have a great story when he goes back to his real job.

Outing started working for the Heat when he was 12. He now only spends time with the team during leaves from his duties as a Staff Sergeant with the U.S. Air Force. He was one of the people who came up with the idea for the Heat to hold training camp at Hurlburt Field, an Air Force installation in Florida's Panhandle, last September.

Soon, he'll be serving his country again. On Thursday, he served at the pleasure of Kobe Bryant.

"I worked out with him earlier today, about 3:45 p.m.," Outing said. "We did some of the same routine, some of the same pick-and-pops and spot-up shooting. After the game, he said, 'I want to shoot again.'"

There was a large contingent of Lakers fans at the game, and a few people even cheered Bryant's display afterward. The arena wasn't totally without fans when his impromptu postgame show started—see, the postgame hangout of choice at AmericanAirlines Arena is called the Dewar's Clubhouse, which stays open for about an hour after Heat games.

As it was emptying, a woman shrieked, "I love you Kobe."

Bryant didn't even seem to notice, nor did he look when a man yelled, "Go home."

Last call didn't mean last shot for Bryant. Not even close. By the time his teammates were likely having dinner on South Beach - Heat reserve Dexter Pittman said on Twitter that he was at a swanky steakhouse around the same time as Bryant's workout began - the five-time NBA champion was doing work.

"Just tweaking things," Bryant said.

And it wasn't just because of the loss, either. Bryant wasn't pleased with the way the Lakers finished, nor the way he finished. He made his first four shots Thursday, then shot 4 for 17 the rest of the way, 2 for 11 in the second half.

"Couple shots, I didn't feel comfortable with," Bryant said. "So I had to get back in rhythm." So to recap, Bryant took a pregame shower.

Then a postgame shower.

And then he needed a post-postgame shower.

"It'd be tough sleeping like this," Bryant said.

Nuggets 116, Suns 97

At Phoenix, Nene scored 22 points in 26 minutes and the Denver Nuggets won in Phoenix for the first time in 13 tries with a rout of the mistake-prone, cold-shooting Suns.

Coach George Karl ended an even longer drought in the desert. The Nuggets' coach had not won in Phoenix since Dec. 28, 1997, when he was with the Seattle SuperSonics. Karl had not won in Phoenix as coach of Milwaukee or Denver until Thursday night.

The Nuggets, playing for the first time since losing to the Clippers in Los Angeles on Saturday, converted the Suns' 20 turnovers into 32 points and shot 52 percent to Phoenix's 41.

Marcin Gortat had 14 points and tied a career high with 18 rebounds for the Suns, who never led in their second-worst home loss of the season.

Mavericks 127, Knicks 109

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points, Shawn Marion had 22 and Jason Terry 21 and the Dallas Mavericks proved themselves to their coach by beating the New York Knicks.

Dallas had lost two of its past three games, with coach Rick Carlisle calling his Mavericks "soft" after they blew a seven-point lead in the final minute in New Orleans the night before. Players responded just like he hoped, setting season highs for points in a quarter (41), half (72) and game.

Amare Stoudemire scored 36 points for the Knicks, who had won three straight.

Stakes, tension rise as NFL labor deadline nears

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rhetoric rose while the clock ticked down in the NFL's labor talks Thursday, with the league and players' union trading back-and-forth barbs a day before the twice-extended collective bargaining agreement expires.

With the two sides far apart on key economic issues, nine of the 10 members of the owners' labor committee joined NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell at the office of the federal mediator overseeing the negotiations—but, the union complained, none of the owners met with any of the players on hand.

Even though there were small-group talks between NFL and union representatives on the 15th day of mediation, no one gave any indication that progress was made. Indeed, the loudest words came in the evening, sparked by comments from league general counsel and lead negotiator Jeff Pash.

"Things can come together quickly. Things can fall apart quickly," Pash said when the NFL negotiating team left for the day. "I've said it many times: If both sides have an equal commitment to getting this deal done, it will get done. I don't know if both sides have an equal commitment. ... Obviously, we have the commitment."

When that was relayed to NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah, he responded with an e-mail to The Associated Press that said: "Jeff Pash was part of an executive team that sold the networks a $4 billion ticket to a game they knew wouldn't be played. The only thing they've been committed to is a lockout."

That is a reference to a court ruling last week, when the federal judge overseeing NFL labor matters sided with players in their case accusing owners of improperly negotiating TV deals to prepare for a work stoppage.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith then went back to the mediator's office to respond to Pash's statement himself.

"We have been committed to this process. But for anyone to stand and turn to the American people and say they question that?" Smith said. "Look, I understand that there's probably some things Jeff Pash just has to say, but this is the truth: We know that as early as March of 2009 ... the National Football League engaged in a strategy to get $4 billion of television money ... even if the games weren't played."

Joining in, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello tweeted: "When is union going to respond to our 150 pages of draft CBA provisions that they received eight days ago. Waiting."

The CBA originally was supposed to expire last week. The sides agreed to push that deadline to Friday; if a deal isn't reached, there could be another extension.

What certainly sounded more likely, given Thursday's tone, was that talks could break off, leading to a lockout by owners or decertification by the union, followed by antitrust lawsuits by players—actions that could threaten the 2011 season.

The NFL hasn't lost games to a work stoppage since 1987, when a strike shortened the season and some games included nonunion replacement players. The foundation of the current CBA was reached in 1993 by then-Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and union chief Gene Upshaw. It has been extended five times as annual revenues soared above $9 billion, the league expanded to 32 teams, and new stadiums were built.

The 2006 contract extension was the final major act for Tagliabue, who then retired, succeeded by Goodell. An opt-out clause for each side was included in that deal, and the owners exercised it in May 2008—three months before Upshaw died. Smith replaced Upshaw in March 2009.

Two months later, Smith wrote Goodell a letter, asking for detailed financial statements from each of the 32 teams and the league as a whole. The NFL offered to turn over other economic data this week, and the NFLPA rejected that proposal, saying the investment bank advising the union determined the information would be "utterly meaningless" during the negotiations.

The NFL, meanwhile, said the union was offered unprecedented financial data, including some the league doesn't share with clubs.

Pash indicated there hadn't been movement on that issue Thursday.

The dispute centers on money: how to divide the billions in revenues, how much of that should go to owners off the top to cover certain costs, and the union's demand for what it calls "financial transparency."

Under the old CBA, owners received an immediate $1 billion to go toward operating expenses before splitting remaining revenues with players. Owners initially tried to add another $1 billion to that, and while they have lowered the up-front figure they want - at least down to an additional $800 million - Smith said it is still too much.

The labor committee members present Thursday were Jerry Richardson of the Panthers, Pat Bowlen of the Broncos, Jerry Jones of the Cowboys, John Mara of the Giants, Art Rooney II of the Steelers, Clark Hunt of the Chiefs, Mark Murphy of the Packers, Dean Spanos of the Chargers and Mike Brown of the Bengals. Eagles president Joe Banner and Redskins general manager Bruce Allen also were there.

While Mara, Hunt and Murphy occasionally participated in the talks since mediation began Feb. 18, a group this large attended only one previous session, last week.

The only missing member of the key league group was Patriots owner Robert Kraft, part of a delegation visiting Israel with Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick. Asked Thursday whether he expects next season to start on time, Kraft said: "That's my belief."

There have been various issues discussed during negotiations, including the owners' push to increase the regular season from 16 games to 18; a rookie wage scale; and benefits for retired players.

But the rift is mainly about revenues.

And the acrimony—temporarily tamped down at federal mediator George Cohen's insistence when he began overseeing talks Feb. 18—was out there for everyone to see Thursday night.

"We're going to be back here tomorrow," Smith said, "because we want football to continue."

AP

Hunter Mahan hits from the 11th tee during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Doral, Fla.

Mahan storms into lead at Doral

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Television towers toppled and the monster scoreboard at Doral came crashing down when 50 mph gusts blew through the Blue Monster. Hunter Mahan then delivered some excitement of his own.

Mahan birdied his opening four holes Thursday and kept right on rolling until the storm-delayed opening round was suspended by darkness. He didn't miss a green or come close to a bogey in 11 holes and was 7-under par.

Mahan, the only American winner in the last five World Golf Championships, didn't get much attention in a tournament that tried to drum up some drama by grouping players by their world ranking.

The biggest crowd belonged to Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson in a rare weekday pairing, with Graeme McDowell along for the ride. They scrapped their way around Doral without challenging the leaders—Mickelson at 2 under, with Woods and McDowell another shot back through 15 holes.

The top three players did a better job living up to their billing.

Martin Kaymer, in his second week as the new No. 1, opened with three straight birdies and was at 5 under through 10 holes. Match Play winner Luke Donald (No. 3) joined him with a birdie on the 10th hole, while Lee Westwood (No. 2) was another shot behind.

Mahan went out in 30 on the back nine, which included birdie putts of 35 and 40 feet.

At 7 under, he was two shots clear of Charley Hoffman, who had a 5-under 67 and was among nine players in the 66-man field who were able to finish the round.

Among those at 5 under with still more golf to play in the first round were 19-year-old Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and 48-year-old Vijay Singh, who only got into this tournament last week. Nick Watney and Matt Kuchar also were at 5 under.

"I guess with that storm, it brought tranquility to the golf course," Mahan said.

It was chaotic for an hour.

Woods and Mickelson were on their way to the 10th tee to start the round when dark clouds gathered and the siren sounded to stop play. Players on the course were brought into the clubhouse, and that's when the action began.

Gusts that reached 52 mph knocked down the large, manual scoreboard—a traditional fixture at Doral beyond the lake to the left of the 18th green—and left it in pieces. A stationary camera in a TV tower behind the ninth green captured video of another TV tower behind the eighth green crashing down into a bunker.

Moments later, the camera went from showing green grass to a gray sky and then went blank. The tower where it was stationed was blown over backward into a pond, with the camera going to the bottom. Divers had to retrieve it.

No one was injured, and while 17 newly planted palm trees were uprooted, the course was fine.

For Mahan and so many others, it was better than that.

"The course is in perfect shape," Mahan said. "Good players and a good golf course and benign conditions, you're going to have some good scores."

But the largest gallery sure didn't see great golf.

Woods missed five birdie putts inside 15 feet on his front nine as he made the turn in 37, and he sure didn't look as if he was making much progress. On the par-5 12th, he snap-hooked a tee shot so badly it nearly went into a water hazard that not many people even knew existed. Even so, he kept himself out of big trouble, and finally got into the game with a pair of birdies before play was suspended.

Mickelson started out sharply, with a massive tee shot on the 12th that led to his second birdie. He struggled to maintain the momentum, however, and had to make a late birdie to stay one shot clear of Woods.

"We didn't play our best, but we didn't play terrible," Mickelson said. "We're in good position tomorrow to come back out, finish the round strong and play our second round."

D.A. Points shot a 68. Thomas Bjorn, who beat Woods in the first round of Match Play, finished off a 71.

Rory Sabbatini was in the mood to celebrate despite opening with a 74. He was so desperate to finish his round that he ran up to the eighth green to putt out while his playing partners remained in the fairway. Then he raced to the ninth tee, and as the group ahead was walking to the par-3 green, Sabbatini hit his tee shot.

The horn sounded to stop play a few minutes later. When play is suspended by darkness, players have the option to finish the hole. Because Sabbatini already had teed off on the ninth, the rest of the group was able to finish the round.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	46	16	.742	–
New York	34	30	.531	13
Philadelphia	33	31	.516	14
New Jersey	20	43	.317	26 1/2
Toronto	17	47	.266	30

Southeast Division

x-Miami	44	21	.677	–
Orlando	41	24	.631	3
Atlanta	37	27	.578	6 1/2
Charlotte	26	38	.406	17 1/2
Washington	16	47	.254	27

Central Division

y-Chicago	45	18	.714	–
Indiana	27	37	.422	18 1/2
Milwaukee	25	38	.397	20
Detroit	23	42	.354	23
Cleveland	12	52	.188	33 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	52	12	.813	–
Dallas	47	18	.723	5 1/2
New Orleans	38	29	.567	15 1/2
Memphis	36	30	.545	17
Houston	33	33	.500	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	40	23	.635	–
Denver	38	27	.585	3
Portland	37	27	.578	3 1/2
Utah	34	31	.523	7
Minnesota	16	50	.242	25 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	20	.697	–
Phoenix	33	30	.524	11 1/2
Golden State	28	36	.438	17
L.A. Clippers	25	40	.385	20 1/2
Sacramento	15	47	.242	29

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Miami 94, L.A. Lakers 88
Dallas 127, New York 109
Denver 116, Phoenix 97

CADILLAC CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DORAL, Florida (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Cadillac Championship, a World Golf Championships event on the 7,334-yard, par-72 TPC Blue Monster:

Partial first round
Only 11 players finished the round due to weather.

Charley Hoffman	33-34	–67
D.A. Points	33-35	–68
Thomas Bjorn	37-34	–71
Anders Hansen	35-36	–71
Aaron Baddeley	37-35	–72
Zach Johnson	36-36	–72
Rhys Davies	38-35	–73
Ryan Palmer	36-37	–73
S.S.P. Chowrasia	38-36	–74
Rory Sabbatini	37-37	–74
Geoff Ogilvy	39-37	–76
Ben Crane	DNS	
Bubba Watson	DNS	
Tim Clark	DNS	

Leaderboard

	SCORE	THRU
1. Hunter Mahan	-7	11
2. Charley Hoffman	-5	F
2. Vijay Singh	-5	16
2. Nick Watney	-5	16
2. Ryo Ishikawa	-5	12
2. Matt Kuchar	-5	11
2. Martin Kaymer	-5	10
2. Luke Donald	-5	10
9. D.A. Points	-4	F
9. Adam Scott	-4	16
9. Robert Karlsson	-4	16
9. Rory McIlroy	-4	15
9. Thomas Aiken	-4	14
9. Kevin Streelman	-4	13
9. Martin Laird	-4	11

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6th Saipan Marathon finishes big

It's called Micronesia—meaning tiny islands because most of these island pearls strewn across the western Pacific are mere pinpoints on a world map.

But last March 5, the quiet 13-mile island of Saipan in the CNMI was bustling with hundreds of runners who sought out this island resort destination to join the 6th Saipan Marathon, the fastest-growing running event in what some have called "America's best kept secret."

Over 800 runners—200 more than last year—registered to traverse a picturesque roadway course through tropical greenery, alongside a turquoise lagoon, and through the island's tourist district, where name brand hotels and restaurants are framed by palm trees and white sand beaches.

This year's marathon—along with its concurrent half marathon and 10K—was part of the prestigious Japan Earth Marathon series. With the endorsement of popular Japanese comedian Hazama Kanpei and other celebrities, the event attracted 707 Japanese this year. The CNMI is a three-hour direct flight from Japan and Korea. Runners from Canada, Hawaii, and Guam also joined a field of runners from the CNMI for the event.

Top male finishers in the full marathon were all from Japan: Satoshi Emoto (2:44:52), Hidekatsu Kuroda (2:51:39), and Kentaro Uno (3:02:12). The top women marathoner were Noriko Hirao of Japan (3:14:09), Mamiko Berger of the CNMI (3:16:28), and Yukiko Sugiyama of Japan (3:40:04).

For the half marathon, Michael Gaitan of Guam came in first (1:20:18), followed by Kazuharu Muto (1:26:34) of Japan, and Rico Flores of Guam (1:28:17). Leading the ladies were Amber Sarkkinen of the CNMI (1:43:57), followed by Sayuri Yuyama (1:45:33) and Kazumi Suzuki (1:53:17), both of Japan.

The 10K men's pack was led by Takeshi Aoyama of Japan (36:36), Toby Castro of Guam (37:15), and Tsubasa Ito of Japan (37:23). The first ladies to finish were Noriko Jim (43:43) and Akiko Miller of the CNMI (48:27), followed by Kazuyo Itagaki of Japan (48:40).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese participants Yuko Okita (62) and Shogo Hidaka (146) finish up the northern half of the 6th Saipan Marathon held last March 5.

Joining the MVA as major sponsors of this year's marathon were New Balance, Toyota, JT, Scalp D, ToyoRice, Delta Airlines, Leo Palace 21, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI), DFS Galleria, Northern Mariana Athletics, and Island Apparel.

Supporters were Division of Parks and Recreation, Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association, Department of Public Safety Traffic Section/ Emergency Medical Services, Hawaiian Rock Products, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Department of Public Works (Roads and Grounds), Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, and KKMP Radio Station.

Aid Stations were manned by:HANMI, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan Grand Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Aqua Resort Club, IT&E, NMA (NMA), Marianas Resort and Spa, Pacific Development Inc., Tasi Tours, Saipan Grand Hotel, Saipan World Resort, and Hafadai Beach Hotel.

In-kind contributors were Nippon Travel Agency, Century Hotel, Marianas Resort & Spa, Tasi Tours, Saipan Sea Ventures, Nippon General Trading (Country House/Moby Dick/Wild West), Kinpachi Restaurant, Aqua Resort Club, Island Rent A Car, Saipan Grand Hotel, National Office Supply, Saipan Sunset Cruise, Saipan World Resort & Spa, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Kingfisher Golf Links, Natural Germanium Water from Rota, Herman's Modern Bakery, and Detry Pumping Service.

Participating vendors were Tony Roma's/ Capricciosa Restaurant, Hula Girl Inc., Country House, Kinpachi Restaurant, E's Kitchen, Torihide, Umibozu, Breast Cancer Nurse from Japan/Commonwealth Cancer Association, Johnny's Bar and Grill, Moby Dick, Japan-Saipan Travel Association, and Shimanokura. ***(PR)***

EAGLES

From Page 28

In the third quarter, the Eagles began pulling away, scoring six straight points for a 20-9 advantage. GCA went on to outgun SIS in the third quarter, 11-6, with Willian Hinson making all his five points in that period.

Entering the final canto, the Eagles were upped by double digits, 25-15, and stretched the advantage to as high as 14, 31-17, after De Leon led GCA's 6-2 scoring in the first three minutes of the payoff period.

The remaining minutes had teams trading errors and GCA smelled blood going into the last two minutes with its lead at 12 points, 31-19. The Eagles then pulled out their starters in the last one minute of the match and waited for the final buzzer to celebrate their first title win in three years.

The Eagles last won the junior varsity crown in 2008 after beating Mt. Carmel School, 62-54. The Geckos took the junior varsity title in 2009, but lost it last year to Agape Christian School.

Meanwhile, De Leon was adjudged MVP of the league, while teammate Del Rosario made it to the top individual performers list, joining Calvary's Grant Rhee, Agape's Jopseh Yang, Mt. Carmel's Alfonso Evangelista, SDA's Tyler Palacios, and SIS' Andrew Johnson.

GCA 33 – De Leon 14, Del Rosario 8, Hinson 5, Hernandez 2, Lee 2, Miguel 2.

SIS 23 – Butcher 10, Xu 8, Smith 2, Johnson 2, Lee 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-3, 14-9, 25-15, 33-23.

FACILITIES

From Page 28

facility should be expanded, along with the bleachers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield to accommodate a big number of spectators.

The American Memorial Park tennis courts, which is one of the proposed venues for the lawn tennis competition, also needs upgrading and NMASA and the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association hopes federal aid will be available for the repair.

For swimming, NMASA is looking for two venues—the 50-meter Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi and the soon to be constructed 25-meter pool inside the Saipan Southern High School campus.

No major renovations are needed for these facilities, so NMASA is hoping that the public and private sectors will work together to ensure that the venues are ready and will meet the Pacific Games Council standard if the CNMI is chosen as host of the 2017 edition of the Mini Games. NMASA is scheduled to meet with some lawmakers anytime this week to discuss the Commonwealth's Mini Games bid and its cost.

Three other island-nations—Nauru, Norfolk Island, and Vanuatu—are battling the CNMI for the Games' hosting rights.

Both Norfolk Island and Vanuatu had already hosted previous Mini Games with the former in 2001 and the latter in 1993, so the CNMI is hoping that the PGC will lean toward the country that has yet to host the Games. Nauru is bidding to host the Mini Games for the first time, just like the CNMI, but is offering a higher per diem at $50 against the Commonwealth's $30. Nauru does not have an athletic stadium, but is scheduled to build one with its construction to be completed in January 2016.

40 JOIN

From Page 28

the level of coaching in our FA. All the participants learned a lot in the classroom and field instructions. The drills that had to be performed and the proper techniques of kicking and dribbling that must be taught to our youth players were a challenge to some, but I was actually amazed at the skill level of some of our current coaches," NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said.

"It was awesome to see the skills they exhibited. While it was a great experience for many, it was also a fun day under the sun learning how to coach our youths," Salas added.

CNMI National Team members Steve McKagan and Patricia Coleman, who also coach in local clubs, conducted the one-day clinic that ran from 8:30am to 5pm. McKagan and Coleman are both C License coaches, getting certifications from Japan Football Association's international coaching course held in February last year.

The course started with a DVD presentation about the sport and followed by the introduction of the organization (NMIFA) and its competitions. Next up was a lecture about coaching and then before the lunch break, participants learned the technical part of the course. Facilitators taught participants about kicking, heading, dribbling, and passing techniques, which the latter will eventually share to their players.

In the afternoon session, the course started with another lecture, which focuses on growth and development of the youth. A discussion about the sport's techniques and basic tactics followed before participants returned to the field for the last part of the course—a practical session. At the Umangs pitch, facilitators demonstrated one-on-one offensive and defensive plays and a small side game.

Of the 40 participants, 31 received E Licence certification for completing the whole-day course, while nine received certificates of participation for joining the morning session of the event.

CABRERA

From Page 28

11 and 0.363; and Lions' Lamarc Iguel, 4-for-11 and 0.363 round out the Top 10.

DL Guerrero, meanwhile, leads the league in RBIs with five, ahead of Fielders' Carl Camacho and Regis, who both have four.

Dela Cruz has crossed the plate a league-leading nine times, ahead of DL Guerrero (8) and Lions' Arther Jebehn (7).

Vincent Cabrera's two triples top the category with Ricardo Dela Cruz alone in second place.

A.J. Lizama's two doubles top a six-way tie for second place in the category.

Earned run average pitching statistics were not available, however Regis holds a healthy lead in strikeouts with 36, ahead of Joseph Atalig (23) and Carl Camacho (17).

The senior batting statistics were formulated based on at least six at bats, while pitching statistics were based on eight innings or more.

Maratita, for his part, is off to a great start this year, going 9-for-14 for a 0.642 batting average to top a number of Big League swingers.

Anthony Guerrero and Fielders' Jonathan Celis make up the Top 3 in hitting with averages of 0.545 (6-for-11) and 0.500 (7-for-14), respectively.

Lions' Richard Dela Cruz, 4-for-8 and 0.500; Northern Stars' Joshua Jones, 7-for-14 and 0.500; Hustlers' Joaquin Muna, 5-for-10 and 0.500; Fielders' Kevin Villagomez, 5-for-10 and 0.500; Hustlers' McGarett Duenas, 6-for-14 and 0.428; Ol'Aces' Rocco Reyes, 4-for-10 and 0.400; Hunters' Joseph Palacios, 4-for-11 and 0.363; Hustlers' Jeremy Lizama, 4-for-11 and 0.363; Fielders' Marvin Ngeskebei, 5-for-15 and 0.357; Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama, 3-for-9 and 0.333; Northern Stars' Mart Sablan, 3-for-9 and 0.333; and Northern Stars' David Jones, 4-for-13 and 0.307 round out the Top 15.

Maratita also has driven home the most runs with seven, ahead of Keoni Lizama and Jonathan Celis; both with five.

Celis is the lone division player with a homerun thus far, while Maraitita's three doubles tops the league ahead of Duenas and Joshua Jones who both have two.

Ol'Aces speedster Diego Camacho has crossed the plate a league-leading seven times, ahead of Celis (6), Joshua Jones, (6) Maratita (6), and Duenas (5).

Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura has pitched 13 scoreless innings and is the only division player to maintain a perfect ERA, however Joshua Jones has allowed just one earned run in 19 innings for an impressive 0.36 ERA.

Moreover, Joshua Jones' 44 strikeouts have virtually locked him in as the 2011 strikeout king already, with Nakamura (15), Palacios (11), and Fielders' Nathan Guerrero (11) biting his dust.

The Big League batting statistics were formulated based on at least eight at bats; pitching statistics were based on eight innings or more.

Heat snap 5-game slide, top Lakers

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Mahan storms into lead at Doral

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Eagles clinch JV championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROY

Players and coaches of Grace Christian Academy flash the No. 1 sign after beating Saipan International School in the boys junior varsity finals of the COPSSA caging, 33-23, on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Grace Christian Academy ended its two-year title drought after beating Saipan International School, 33-23, in the junior varsity division of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles leaned on stalwarts Karlo Deleon and Enrico Del Rosario anew to down the depleted Geckos in the winner-take-all championship game. SIS played with only five players against the complete 13-man roster of GCA and the Geckos simply ran out of offensive options to match the Eagles' gunners.

De Leon led the Eagles championship win, firing 14 points. He had eight in the opening period, helping GCA take a 10-3 lead. Del Rosario, who finished with eight points, made GCA's two other points in the first period. Jordan Butcher scored two points for SIS, while Gene Lee contributed one free throw.

The Geckos picked up their scoring a bit in the second quarter, behind Butcher's four points and a field goal from Chilie Xu, but GCA still led at the break, 14-9. The Eagles drew two points each from A.J. Hernandez and Del Rosario to remain on top.

See EAGLES on Page 27

Facilities upgrade needed for 2017 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If the CNMI gets the hosting rights for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games, various facilities would need to undergo facelifts to meet the standards for the competition.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, who submitted the CNMI's bid for the quadrennial meet last week, said during the NMASA meeting that repairs of sports facilities should be one of the priorities once the Games is awarded to the Commonwealth.

"The Ada gym should be air-conditioned and other facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex should be repaired," White said. The grandstand at the track and field

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the NMIFA-sponsored E License coaching clinic pose for a group photo at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last month after a practical training session.

40 join E License football coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association drew 40 participants for its E License coaching training course held at the Koblerville Elementary School last month.

The course was for U6 and U8 coaches and was timely, as NMIFA will open its 2011 youth spring league this Saturday.

"We are very excited to see the large number of participation, as we continue to offer coaching courses that improve

See 40 JOIN on Page 27

Cabrera, Maratita top hit parade

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last of a two-part series

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Hunters' Anthony Guerrero is second in the Big League batting list with six hits in 11 at bats for a 0.545 average.

The Heats' Vince Cabrera and the Fielders' Juan Maratita are currently leading the batting race in the Senior and Big divisions, respectively, of the 2011 season of Saipan Little League Baseball.

Cabrera is the current senior batting leader, going 4-for 6 for a 0.666 batting average. Ol'Aces' Frankie Camacho and Lions' Ricardo Dela Cruz complete the Top 3 with 0.600 (6-for-10) and 0.571 (8-for-14) average, respectively.

Fielders' Peter Lieto, 5-for-9 and 0.555; Ol'Aces' A.J. Lizama, 6-for-13 and 0.461; Hunters' Palmerson Mongkeya, 4-for-9 and 0.444; Lions' Leroy Regis, 8-for-18 and 0.444; Lions' Tim DL Guerrero, 7-for-16 and 0.437; Hunters' Joseph Atalig, 4-for-

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